

HEADWATERS COUNTRY

The Story of Tioga County

by

John C. Heaps

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the boys and girls of Tioga County. If a few children should acquire a love of history from this book, the many hours that have gone into its creation shall have been well spent.

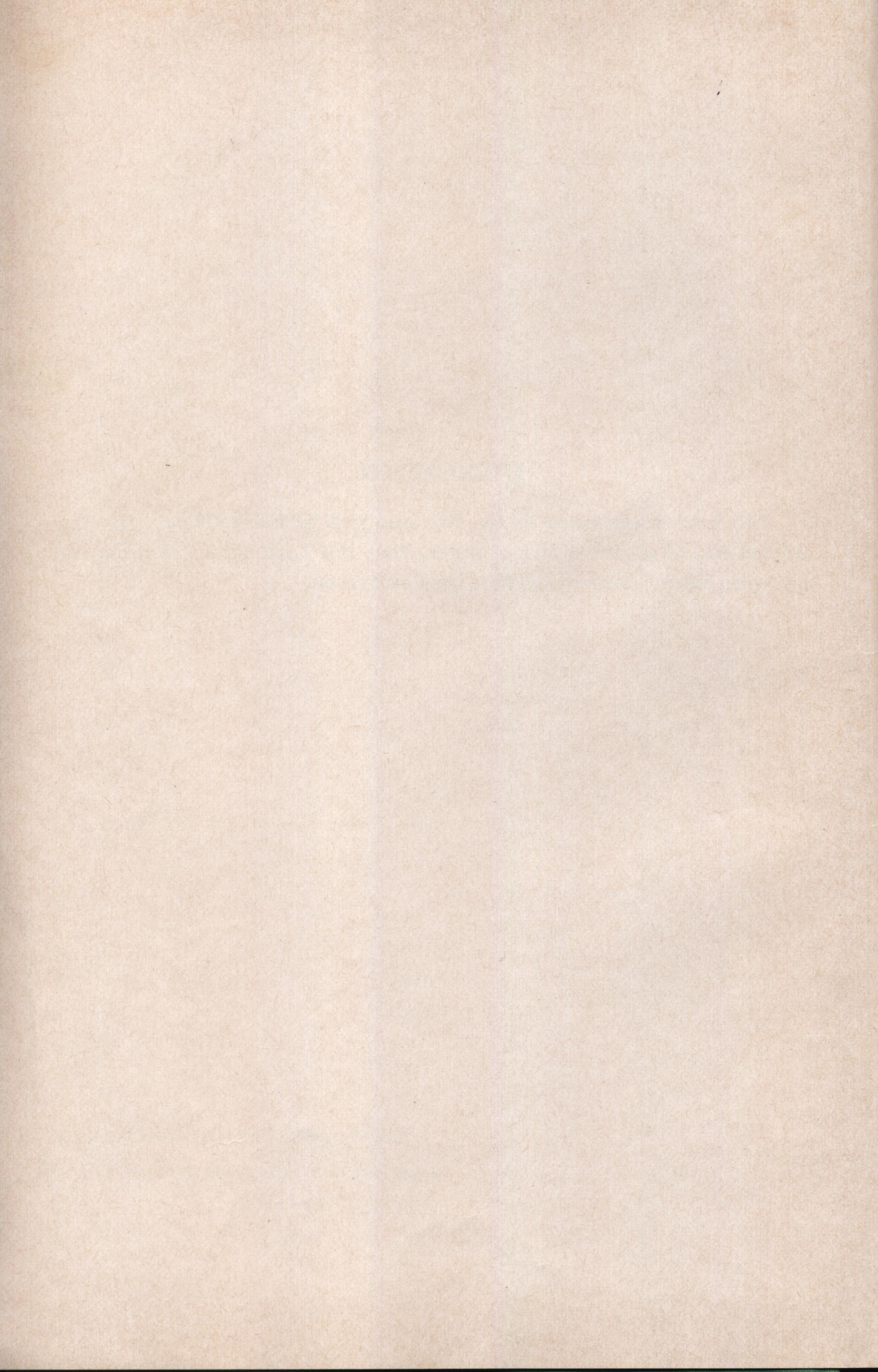
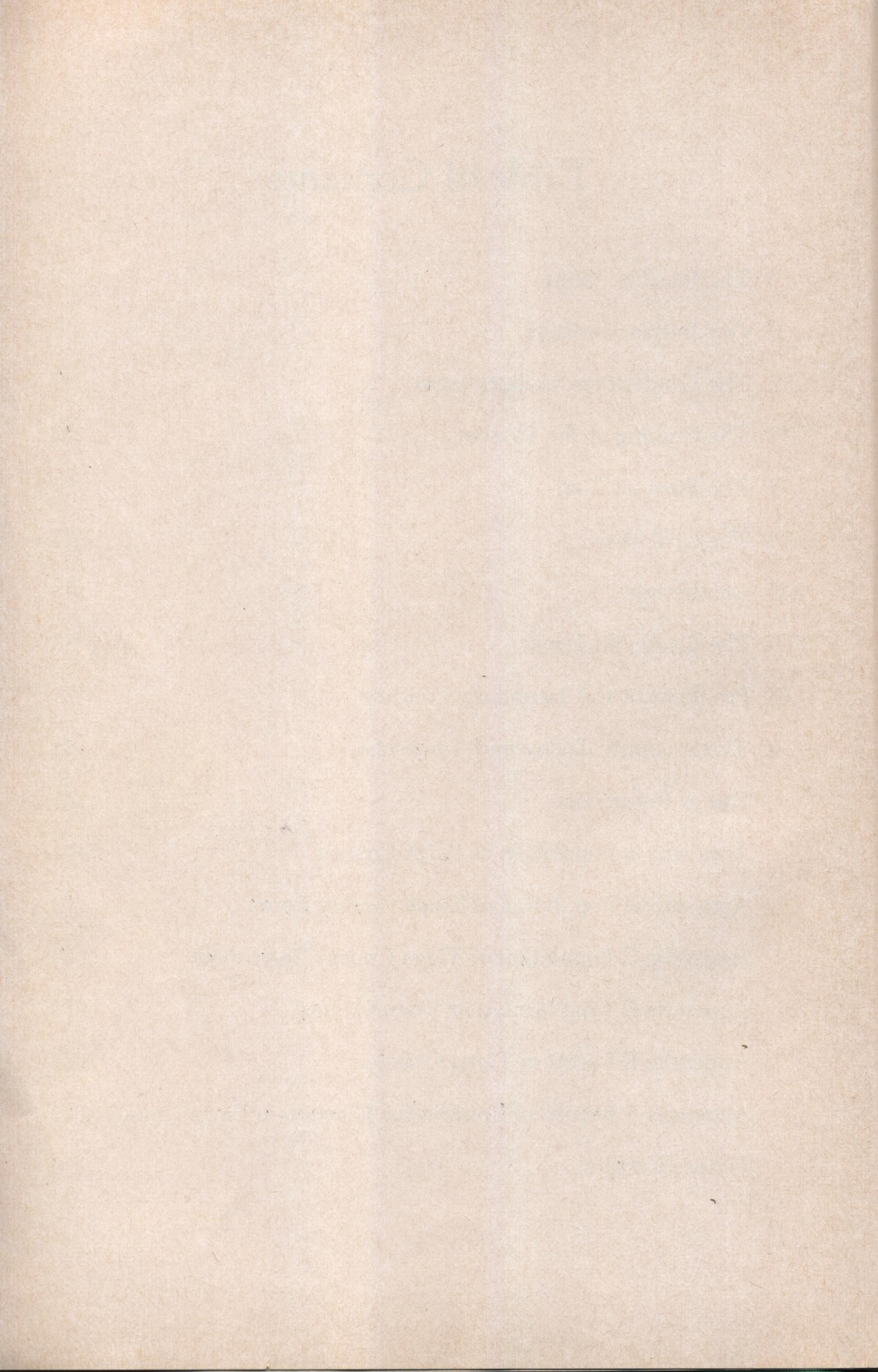


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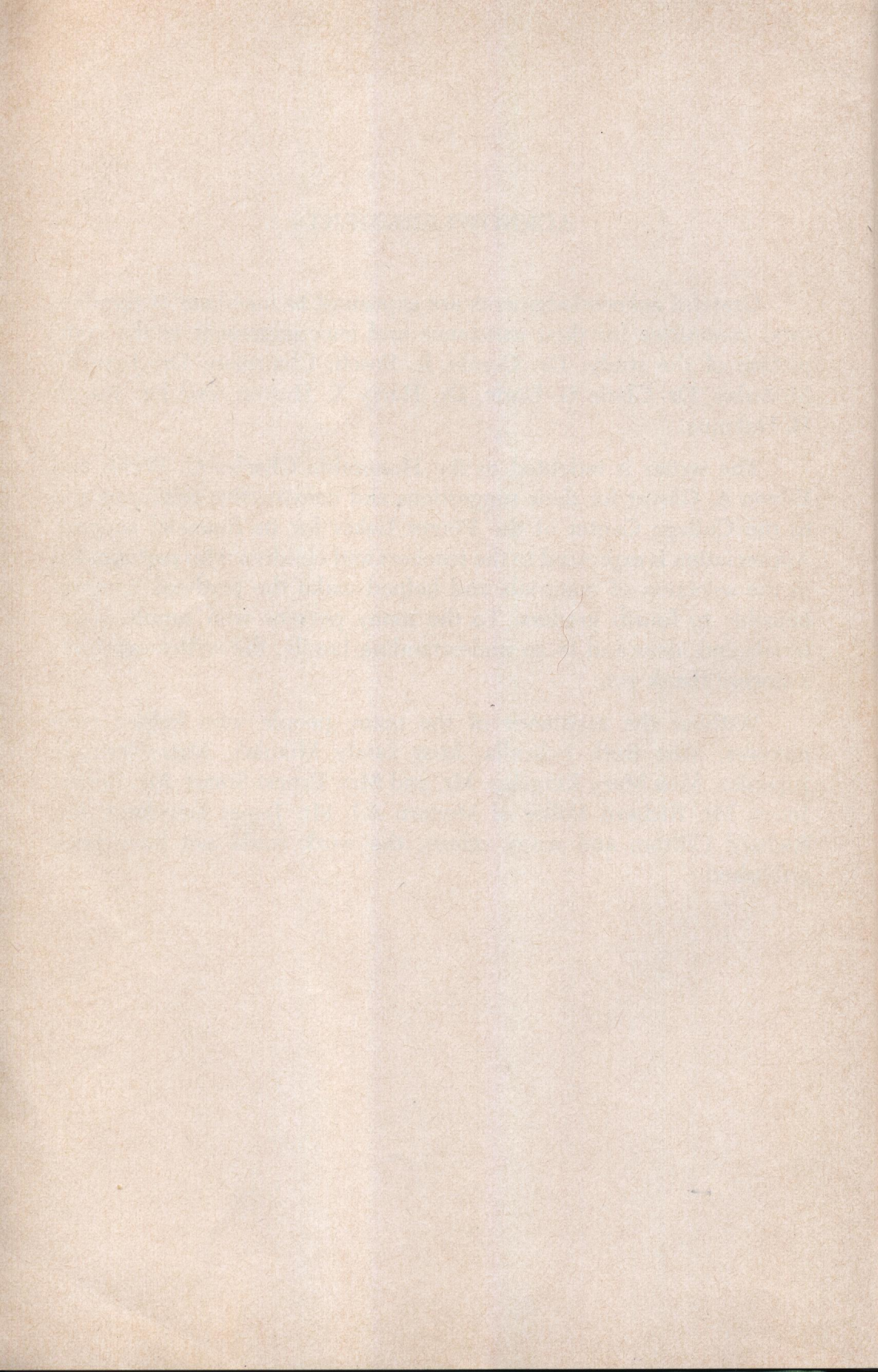


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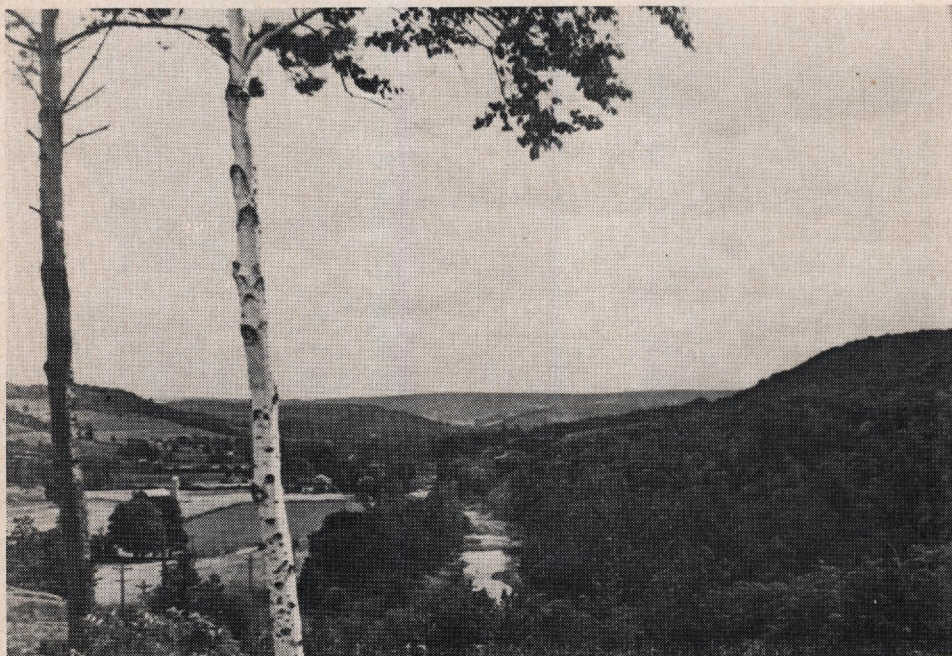
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Chapter 1: The Land of Tioga



Tioga County Today

Have you ever really looked at the land around you? Rolling hills and deep green forests can be seen in every direction. Majestic blue mountains and clear forest brooks are only a few giant steps from your doorstep. Wide, grassy meadows cover the hillsides and tiny rivers tumble toward the sea. At almost every turn a shady glen or a rocky cliff greets your eye. Small villages snuggle by the streams and lie hidden among the hills. In the autumn dying leaves bathe the countryside in gold and crimson. This is the land of Tioga. Tioga County is your home.

Tioga is one of sixty-seven counties that make up the State of Pennsylvania. It is located in the north-central part of our state, about halfway between Lake Erie and the Delaware River. Tioga County is in the section of Pennsylvania called the northern tier. It is tucked between the Laurel Hill Mountain and New York State. Heavily forested Potter County lies directly west and Bradford County forms the eastern boundary.

Tioga is the second largest county in the Keystone State. It has a land area of 736,000 acres. In fact, your county is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island!

Lake
Erie

New York

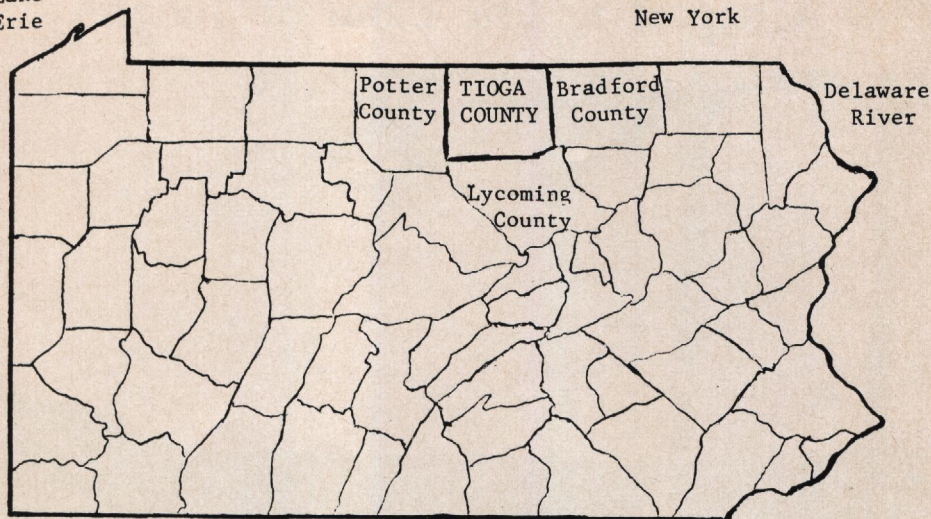


Figure 1.
The Location of Tioga County in Pennsylvania

Since many streams begin on the northern tier, the area is given the name, Headwaters Country. Bubbling brooks splash in every direction. Several streams have played an important part in the story of our county.

The Tioga River begins in a swampy woods near the eastern end of the county. The tiny river is fed by mountain springs and brooks. It is a fair sized stream by the time it breaks through the mountains below Blossburg. The Tioga does not follow the natural valley into Bradford County. It cuts its own valley straight north and enters New York where it joins the Susquehanna.

The Tioga river flows up! Of course, the water does not really run uphill. The Tioga is one of the few rivers in the United States that flows north and residents like to say it flows "up."

The Tioga did not always flow north. At one time it probably ran past where Arnot and Morris now stand and emptied into Pine Creek. Blossburg, Covington, Mansfield, Tioga, and Lawrenceville are a few of the communities along the banks of this river.

The Cowanesque River has its source in Potter County. It winds the length of the picturesque Cowanesque Valley before it unites with the Tioga River near the New York line. Westfield, Knoxville, and Elkland are the largest towns in this fertile valley.

Cowanesque is an Indian name meaning "long island." When the white men first came, there was a large island on the river. The settlers

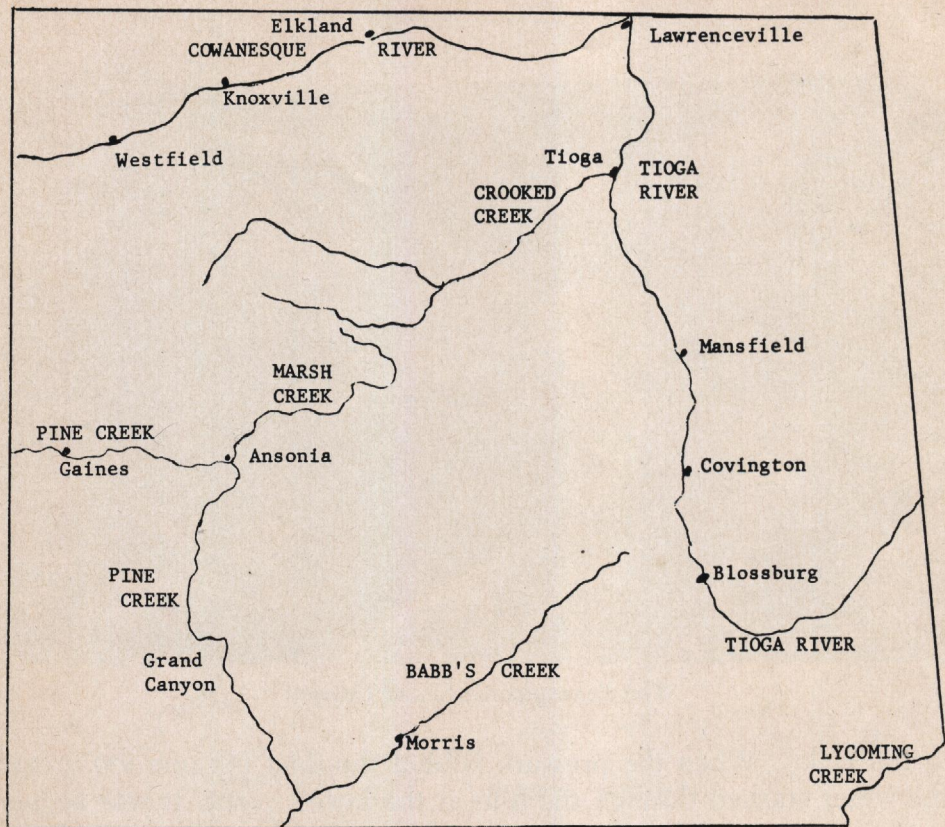
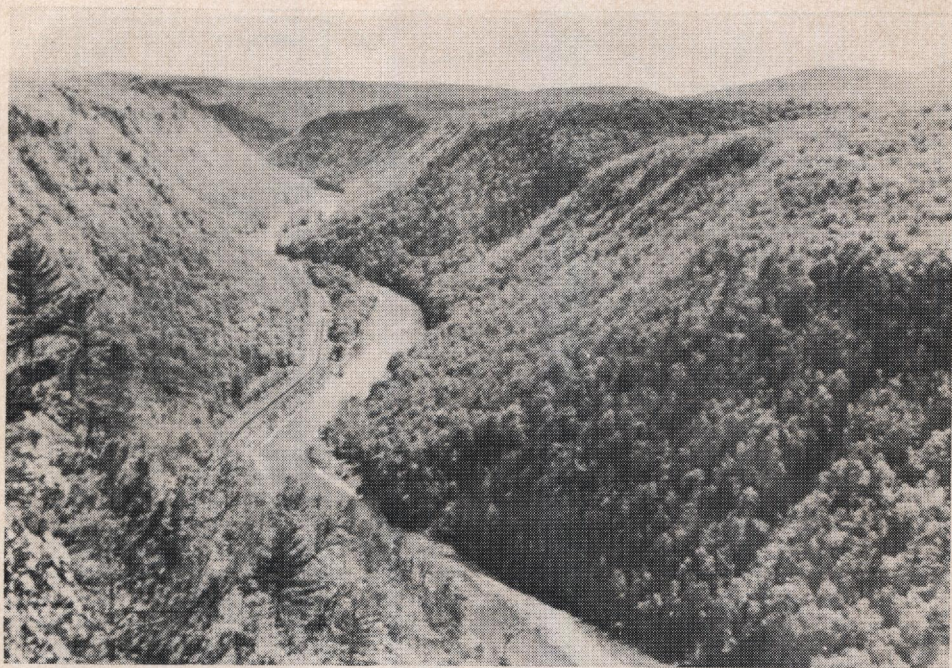


Figure 2.
The Streams of Tioga County

wanted to farm the fertile land there so they dammed off the north channel. When that channel dried up, the island disappeared. Near Osceola a few traces can still be found of the island that gave the river such a beautiful name.

The longest stream in Tioga County is a creek! Pine Creek crosses the western boundary of the county near Gaines. It bounces down a narrow valley and slips out of the hills onto a broad plain at Ansonia. Here, the quiet stream leaves the natural valley and roars into the famous Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. After leaving the gorge, Pine Creek splashes through forty miles of remote wilderness before joining the West Branch of the Susquehanna near Jersey Shore.

Scientists have tried to determine why Pine Creek followed such a strange course. Many scholars believe it once flowed through what is now the Marsh Creek and Crooked Creek valleys and emptied into the Tioga River. It is believed that during the ice age a glacier threw a dam across Pine Creek near Big Meadows. This caused a lake to form



The Pennsylvania Grand Canyon

in the valley. When the pressure behind the dam became too great, the water crashed through the hills at the lowest point. It was at this time, scientists believe, that the mountains were ripped open and the Grand Canyon was formed. By the time the ice melted Pine Creek was already settled in its new bed. It never returned to its old path.

Tioga County has a very uneven surface. Jagged hollows, boulders, gorges, glacial deposits, and never ending hills give the area a rugged profile. The northern tier is often called the land of endless mountains. The hills here are not really mountains. They are spurs of the Appalachian Range that runs through Pennsylvania. Cedar Mountain, the highest point in the county, is 2543 feet high. Most of the ridges rise to around 2000 feet. Since the valleys are nearly 1200 feet above sea level, the mountain tops are usually less than 800 feet above the valleys.

Three "mountain ranges" slice through Tioga County. The largest of these is the Briar Hill, or Blossburg Range. The Pine Creek—Crooked Creek Range runs nearly through the center of the county and the Cowanesque Range passes along the New York State line.

The lofty Laurel Hill spur in nearby Lycoming County has helped shape the history of this area. This ridge, known today as Steam Valley Mountain, made it very difficult to travel from Tioga County to Cen-

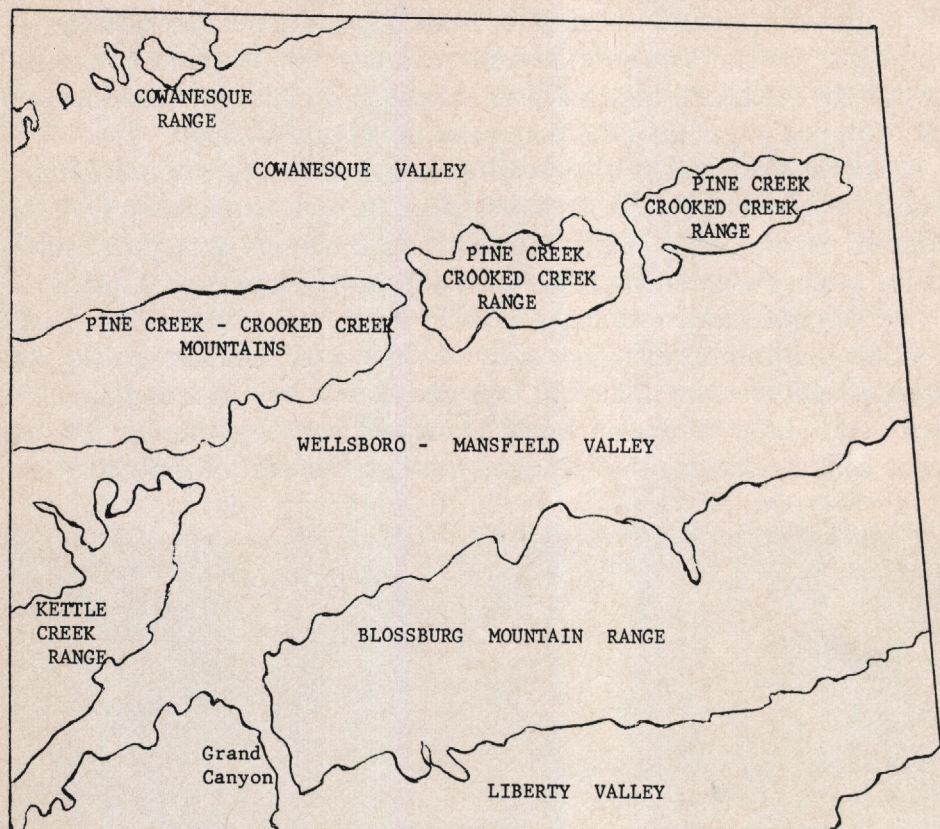


Figure 3.
The Valleys and Mountains of Tioga County

tral Pennsylvania in the early days. This is one reason why most settlers came here from the north and east. People here still have many of the customs and habits of New England.

Squeezed between these mountains are three valleys. These valleys are very old and are called anticlines. Geologists tell us that at one time they were higher than the mountains! In fact, it is believed that the Mansfield-Wellsboro Valley was once nearly 12,000 feet high. Over the centuries erosion has reduced the valleys to rolling plains. The rivers and creeks have carved their own hollows back and forth across them. Today it is often hard to tell where the mountains end and the valleys begin!

Northern tier Pennsylvania has very changeable weather. In both summer and winter you can never be quite sure what the next day will bring. After the cold wet spring most residents are happy to see summer arrive. In July the temperature averages a mild seventy-five degrees but often temperatures zoom into the nineties. Autumn is our

most pleasant season. Warm afternoons and mild weather usually last through October. By February the average temperature is a bitter twenty-five degrees. Many winter mornings Tiogans feel the mercury has dropped lower than the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

About forty inches of precipitation fall each year. As all Tiogans know, much of this falls as snow between early November and late March. In the 1960's Tioga County had a serious drought. Usually there is more than enough rain for the type of crops grown here.

It is the sudden changes in our weather that sometimes make residents uncomfortable. One early settler wrote, "Oh how quickly the storms leap over the mountain tops and drown you in a downpour or bury you under an avalanche of snow." Every Tioga boy or girl has gone coatless one day then trudged through two feet of snow the next.



Yesterday It Was Spring!

Tioga Long Ago

The land you see around you has not always looked the way it does today. Millions of years ago the entire eastern United States was covered by a shallow, salt water sea. That is why you can find fossils of sea animals in Tioga County. A great upheaval of the earth finally caused the land to rise above the waters. For millions of years erosion and uplifts changed the face of the land again and again.

Long after the land rose above the water, huge glaciers moved over much of North America. Ice sheets 200 feet thick gouged out lakes and ground down the mountains. Plant life was destroyed and the animals were driven south.

Many glacial lakes appeared on the northern tier. Lake Cowanesque covered much of northern Tioga County. Near where Mansfield stands today, a body of water filled the Tioga Valley from Lamb's Creek to Canoe Camp. Many other lakes dotted the area.

The ice sheets caused new valleys to be formed and many streams changed direction. Huge piles of rocks and soil were left when the glaciers slowly melted. So much was the surface of Tioga County changed, you can still find traces of these icy visitors.

When the last glaciers melted about 15,000 years ago, nature continued changing the appearance of the area. The plant and animal life returned. Erosion etched the valleys deeper. When the settler arrived he helped nature change the face of the land. He cut down the forests, built dams, and plowed up the soil. Fields, highways, towns, railroads, and factories were soon part of the scenery. Ever so slowly Tioga County began to look as it does today.

This is the beautiful and rugged land where your parents have chosen to make their home. Maybe even your grandparents or great-grandparents lived here. Perhaps you will stay in Tioga County when you grow up. You will want to know as much as you can about your county. As you learn about your county it will be easier to understand your nation. As you grow to understand your nation, you become a better American.

Chapter II: Our Indian Heritage



The Council

An Iroquois Council

As you look out the window can you imagine Indians running across your school yard? Can you picture a band of redmen filing along the Tioga River or Indian canoes skimming down Pine Creek? Does it seem strange to think of a Seneca Campfire on the banks of the Cowanesque? This should not seem odd at all. The first people to live in the Land of Tioga were Indians.

Most early Indian tribes wandered from place to place. As they roamed in search of better hunting grounds, it is likely many tribes passed through this area. Probably most of them stopped for a short time to hunt or seek refuge, then moved on. From time to time, small bands must have stayed.

There is evidence that Indians lived here. An Indian village once stood on the present site of Tioga Boro. Early settlers found traces of an Indian town at Ansonia. A pioneer who was captured by the Seneca, was rested at a small clearing where the village of Blackwell now stands. Early stage drivers told how Indian passengers would have them stop near the Tioga River narrows. Here the redmen would honor their dead ancestors. In nearly every valley in the county, an arrow-head, a piece of pottery, or some Indian relic has been found. We know

very little about these early inhabitants. We do know, by the time the white man came, hardly any Indians lived in this area.

The Iroquois Nation. Shortly before Captain John Smith helped establish the first English Colony at Jamestown, several Indian nations were making history in America. Five tribes, who lived along the rivers and lakes of New York State, banded together to form the famous Iroquois Nation. The tribes were the Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, Cayuga, and Seneca. Later the Tuscaroras joined the organization and it became known as the Six Nations.

The Iroquois were to become the most feared Indians in North America. So great was their power, they conquered all the land between Canada and the Potomac River. Iroquois war parties made raids as far west as the Mississippi River. The sons of the Six Nations struck fear in the hearts of enemies from the Great Lakes to the Carolinas. Even after the Europeans came to America, it was said that Iroquois thunder could make the continent tremble.

The fierce Iroquois drove all other Indians out of our headwaters country. The Seneca tribe kept north-central Pennsylvania as their private hunting ground! Since one of the Iroquois tribes was "landlord" of Tioga County, we should learn something about these people.

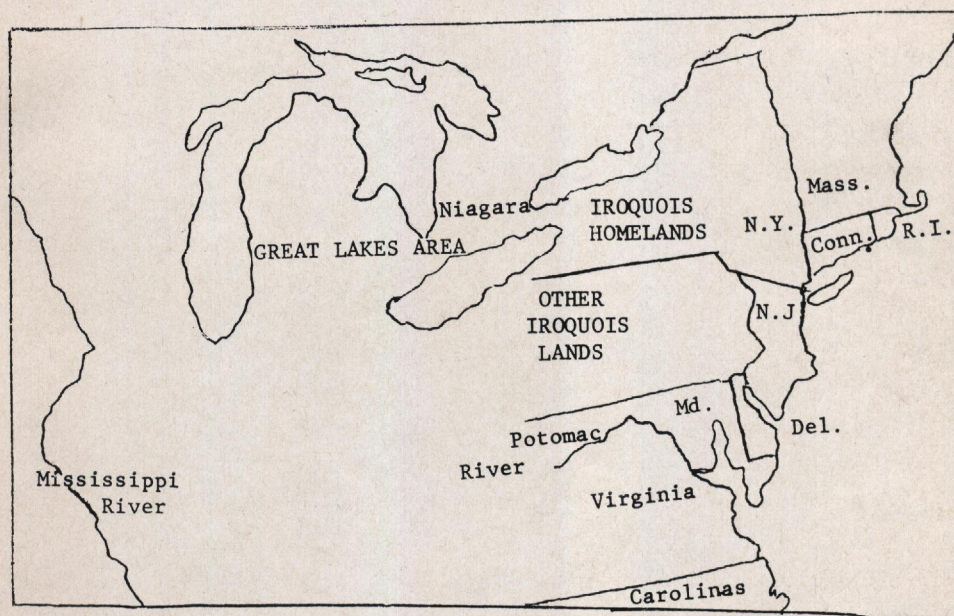
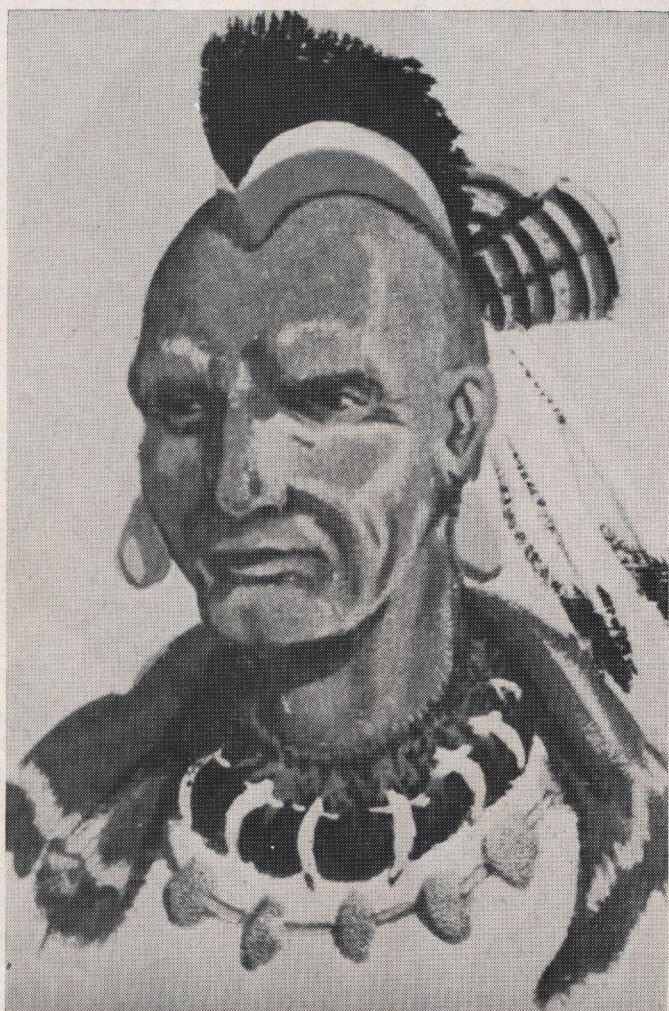


Figure 4.
Iroquois Lands and the Colonies

The Founding of the Iroquois Nation

There is a legend that Hiawatha and Dekanawida formed the Iroquois nation. These two wise and brave chiefs wandered through the forest using magic powers to get the warriors to “bury the hatchet.” Their super strength and wisdom finally persuaded the five tribes to live together “under the tree of peace.” The Iroquois still sing songs and tell tales about the deeds of their legendary founders.

The Iroquois had a form of self government. Each tribe ran its own affairs, but sent members to a great council that ruled the Six Nations. The council members **elected** their own speaker who served for a short term. Representatives could be recalled if they did not satisfy their tribe. Talented speakers from any village could go to the



Hiawatha, The Legendary Chief

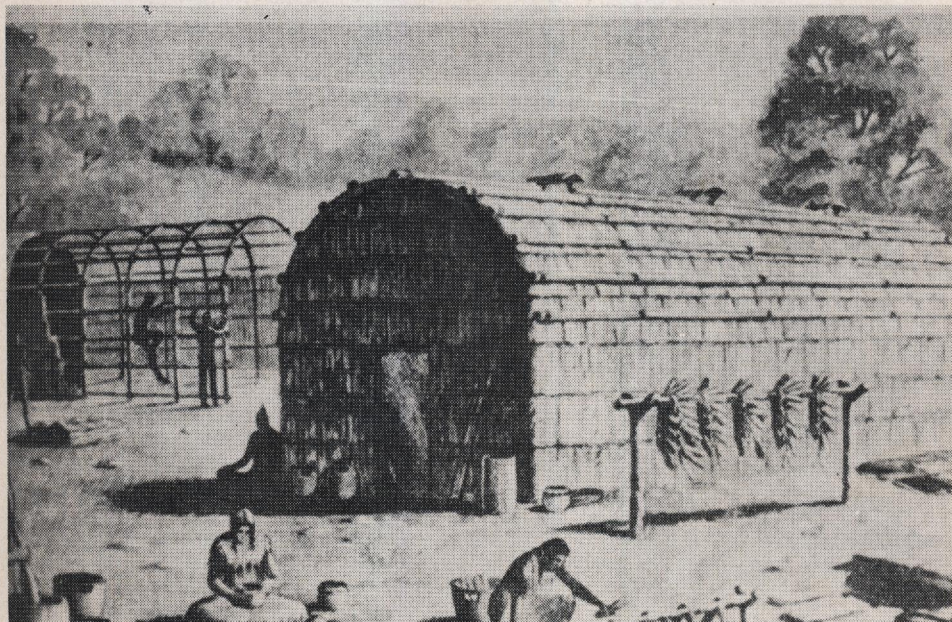
council and speak for their people. Local councils could voice their disapproval of action taken by the Great Council. When the six fires burned at Onondago, every tribe and every village was represented.

This type of government is called a democracy. The Iroquois democracy was a great deal like our American democracy. In fact, the men who made our government studied the Iroquois system and took ideas from it. It seems strange that these people who could not read or write helped design the United States. Later the United States would swallow up the Iroquois Nation.

The Iroquois were advanced in many ways. Their agriculture was well developed. When the Americans invaded the Six Nations they found orchards, well-tended corn fields, and gardens with every vegetable from peas to watermelons. One soldier found an ear of corn twenty-two inches long! The invaders also found large towns, sports fields, painted buildings, storehouses, and even flower boxes.

The family was an important part of Iroquois life. Children were taught to obey their parents and be loyal to their family. Children, parents, and grandparents all lived in the same home. When a daughter married, another room was added and the new son-in-law moved in.

Women were treated with great respect in the Six Nations. They ran the household and owned all the goods in the home. When children were born, they took the last name of their mother. One Iroquois rule



An Iroquois Long House

was, if a foe should kill an Iroquois woman, two enemy warriors must die!

All Iroquois people belonged to a secret organization called a clan. Each boy and girl would join the clan of his mother. The main clans were the Turtle, Bear, and Wolf. A blood oath of secrecy and loyalty was taken when the youth joined. Each clan would have members from all six tribes and marriage to someone from the same clan was forbidden. These clans helped tie the Iroquois Nation together.

The Iroquois longhouse was much better than the crude huts used by most Indians. The longhouse was constructed by driving small logs into the ground about fifteen feet apart. The tops were drawn and tied together to form a frame. The frame was then covered with skins or bark. Bedrooms with log floors and raised bunks were separated from the main living room by bark walls. A longhouse was larger, easier to



An Iroquois Warrior

build, and usually more comfortable than the log cabins built by the settlers. Some were over 200 feet long.

Tanning leather, manufacturing maple syrup, and making fine wood carvings were all part of the Iroquois way of life. Some people feel life in the Six Nations was more advanced than life in some countries of Europe. Iroquois living was certainly more comfortable than the life of the early pioneers.

The Iroquois Brave

The Iroquois brave took great pride in his skill as a hunter and warrior. No animal was too clever, no enemy too strong, or no forest too thick for the sons of the Six Nations. It has been said that an Iroquois maid had no respect for a brave unless he had a string of scalps on his belt. A French priest who lived with the Indians wrote, "My pen has no ink black enough to describe the fury of the Iroquois."

When the American settlers became his enemy, the Iroquois warrior was a cunning and deadly foe. The ambush, the massacre, and the torch were his weapons. It must be remembered, however, the redmen fought the only way he knew how. He was fighting to protect his home and family.

The Seneca Tribe

Living in southern New York, near the Land of Tioga, were the Seneca. The Seneca were the most warlike of the Iroquois tribes. They used the deep forests of north-central Pennsylvania as a hunting reserve. Hunting parties would set up camps here and spend a week or so killing the deer, elk, bear, and turkeys that were so plentiful. When enough meat was obtained, it would be transported back to the Seneca homeland.

The Seneca also had trails running through this area. The most important one was the Sheshequin Path. This was a trail between the West Branch and the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. It followed the Lycoming Creek north from Williamsport, passed Trout Run, and cut through the southeastern corner of Tioga County. It finally reached the Towanda Creek which it followed to the North Branch.

A second well-traveled trail was the Crooked Creek Path. This path snaked its way up the valleys of the Tioga River and Crooked Creek to near the present boro of Wellsboro. From here it wound through Stoney Fork hollow and down Babb's Creek. The trail then followed Pine Creek to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

Another of these "Indian highways" covered the same ground as modern Route 15. This trail skirted the Tioga River to where Blossburg lies today. It then cut over Briar Hill and the Laurel Hill Spur to the present site of Williamsport. Most trails in the area were direct routes from the land of the Seneca to the West Branch Valley.

Other trails also passed through the area. One led from the Cowanesque to the source of Kettle Creek and followed that stream to the West Branch. Another path was supposed to have passed from the Tioga Valley, by Arnot, and on down Babb's Creek. The Indians were known to have used the floor of the Grand Canyon as a passageway. Probably, at one time or another, every stream in the county had a moccasin print along its banks.

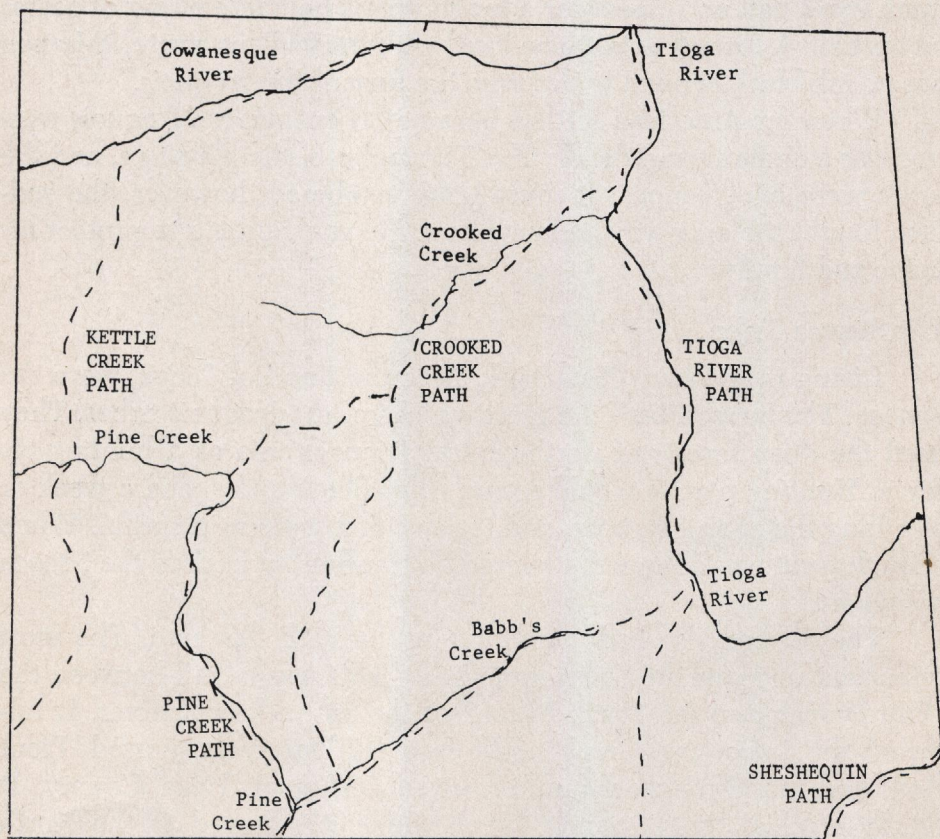


Figure 5.
Indian Trails of Tioga County

War With England

In 1776 when our nation went to war with England, the Land of Tioga was still Iroquois territory. The Seneca agreed to help the Eng-

lish defeat the Americans. Tioga County lay directly between the Seneca Country and the towns along the West Branch. The Indian trails through this area became war paths pointed right at the heart of the West Branch settlements.

Seneca warriors would move over their forest paths and suddenly spring on the pioneers. Scalping, kidnapping, and burning would follow. Many of the war parties that spread terror throughout central Pennsylvania probably traveled these valleys you know so well.



This Painting Depicts An Indian Attack

We have some proof the Tioga trails were used by the Indian warriors. One Seneca prisoner was brought through the Grand Canyon. Several times bands of settlers followed war parties up Lycoming Creek into this headwaters country. The Seneca war party that destroyed a fort near Williamsport is believed to have retreated through Tioga County. If so, the wounded Captain Montour was carried up the Crooked Creek trail. Legend tells us that this great Iroquois warrior was buried near the mouth of the Tioga. Here the famous Painted Post was erected as his monument.

015 The Settlers Strike Back

The settlers became so angered by the Indian raids that Colonel Hartley led an army into the northern tier to punish the Seneca. The

troops moved up the Sheshequin Trail and passed through the corner of Tioga County. They did not find many Indians but they did find several fresh scalping fires. Colonel Hartley gave us one of the first descriptions of this area. The tired soldier wrote in his report, "The difficulties in crossing the Alps could not have been greater."

Finally the war was ended. The English and their Indian friends were defeated. No longer would the fierce Seneca make their way through the forests of Tioga to attack the West Branch settlers. In a short time the heavy boot of the pioneer would travel the Indian paths. The Land of Tioga would become part of the American nation.

Never should we forget what the Indian left us. Names like, Tioga, Cowanesque, Osceola, and Tiadaghton have made our language richer. Our highways and railways often follow the old Seneca trails. Tobacco, corn, squash, and pumpkin are a few of the crops the Indian taught us to grow. Thanksgiving, maple syrup, and a deep love of the outdoors are all gifts from the redman. Before he gave up his hunting ground, the Indian had a big influence on the people who were to become the new owners of this land.

Chapter III: The Land Opens to Settlement



William Penn

Pennsylvania is one of the oldest American states. William Penn started his colony in 1682 and invited people from all lands to come and live in peace and freedom. Penn's Woods grew rapidly. It soon had more people than any other state. Philadelphia became America's greatest city and Pittsburgh was soon the most important town west of the Appalachian Mountains. Farms spread out across the land and the valleys became crowded with people moving into the wilderness.

In central Pennsylvania the pioneers pushed up both branches of the Susquehanna River. Civilization reached up the North Branch as far as Wilkes Barre. By the time the America colonists declared their independence, settlements dotted the West Branch as far west as Young Women's Creek.

The one part of Pennsylvania the white man could not enter was the northern tier. This forbidden land lay too close to the Iroquois

Nation. Even the bravest pioneer would not build a cabin under the shadow of Iroquois power. Before the Revolutionary War, this Iroquois power was greatly feared. As long as the Iroquois remained strong, Northern Pennsylvania would remain a Seneca playground!

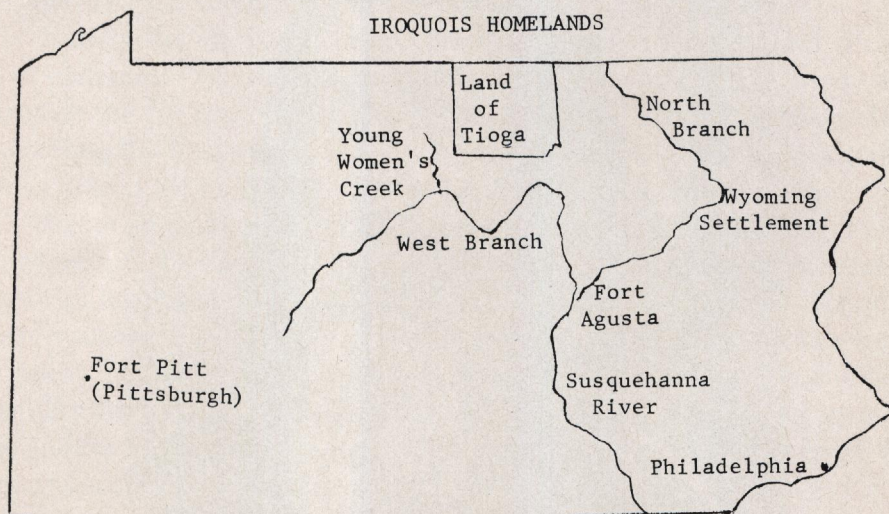


Figure 6.
Pennsylvania Before the Revolution

Iroquois power was shattered during the Revolution. The Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca tribes fought with the English against the Americans in this war. The Red Coats used the Indians to keep the Americans busy on the frontier.

Death and destruction was brought down on the American settlers. There were massacres at Wyoming and Cherry Valley. Almost the entire population had to flee the West Branch settlements. So troublesome were the Iroquois attacks, it became difficult for the Pennsylvania and New York soldier to keep his mind on fighting the British.

The Americans decided something had to be done. General Washington, Commander of the Army, planned an attack on the Iroquois Country. The army was going to try to crush the Indian Nation. Washington's orders said, "Carry the war into the heart of the Six Nations, cut off their settlements, destroy their crops, and do them every other mischief time and circumstances will permit." The soldiers were told not to allow the Indians to make peace to save their villages. "The men" General Washington wrote, "are to give out war hoops and fix bayonets, and make rather than receive attacks."

The Sullivan Expedition. The attack was put in charge of General John Sullivan and General James Clinton. General Sullivan

marched from Eastern Pennsylvania to Tioga Point, the present site of Athens, Pennsylvania. Here Fort Sullivan was built for a base. General Clinton, who had to bring his men and supplies through the deep forests of New York, came up with a clever idea. His soldiers dammed up the outlet of Otsego Lake. The supplies and men were loaded on rafts which were set afloat on the lake. When the dam was broken, the rafts floated down the swollen Susquehanna to Tioga Point.

When the Indians learned of Sullivan's plans, they launched several attacks along the frontier. This was to persuade Sullivan to protect the frontier and not attack the Iroquois homeland. The Americans understood the Indian trick, however, and Sullivan led 4500 men into the land of the Six Nations.



General John Sullivan

The army entered the Iroquois homeland on the Forbidden Path. This trail followed the Chemung River into the heart of Seneca Coun-

try. There was only one battle in this campaign. Near Newtown, now Elmira, a small British and Indian force tried to stop Sullivan's troops. In a short, brisk battle the Americans crushed the defenders. Cannons, which had been dragged through the woods with great hardship, played a big part in the victory. One soldier hinted that the Indians did not like the music of the cannons even though the gunners played the sweetest tune they knew.

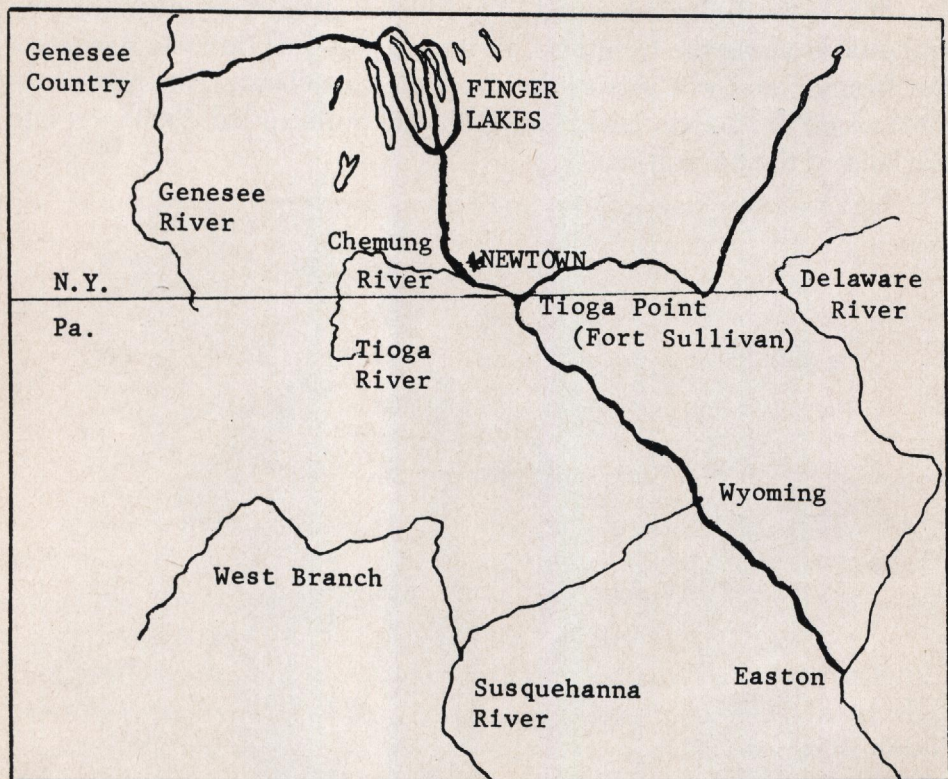


Figure 7.
The Sullivan Expedition

The Land of the Seneca is Destroyed. After the Battle of Newtown the terrified Indians had little desire to fight. For one month Sullivan's soldiers did all they could to destroy the Six Nations. Villages were burned, crops were destroyed, orchards were cut down, livestock was butchered, and horses were stolen or driven off. General Sullivan reported that forty towns and 160,000 bushels of corn were destroyed. The entire Iroquois Nation was thrown back on the British forts at Niagara.

Sullivan's expedition was a hard blow to the Indian Nations. Starvation and sickness struck the unhappy tribes the following winter.

Never again would the name Iroquois make the continent tremble. The Indian had tasted the bitter medicine of defeat!

These events took place near, but not in, the Land of Tioga. However, the campaign was very important to the future of Tioga County. The soldiers were much impressed by the country they saw. They spread stories about the beautiful, fertile land they had visited. These stories attracted many settlers to the region when the war ended. Even more important was the fact that Iroquois power had been shattered. Now settlers could safely enter the northern tier.

Even after this Iroquois defeat the Land of Tioga was still "owned" by the Seneca. Before settlers could legally build homes here, the land had to be purchased from the Indians.

The Land of Tioga is Purchased. In 1784 an attempt was made to make a treaty with the Iroquois. The American Government was most anxious to buy the valuable Iroquois lands. A meeting of government commissioners and Iroquois chiefs was arranged at Fort Stanwix (now Rome) New York. After going through hours of Indian ceremony, the commissioners finally got the Iroquois to sell part of their empire. The Indians sold all the lands they held outside of their homeland. This included almost all of northern tier Pennsylvania.

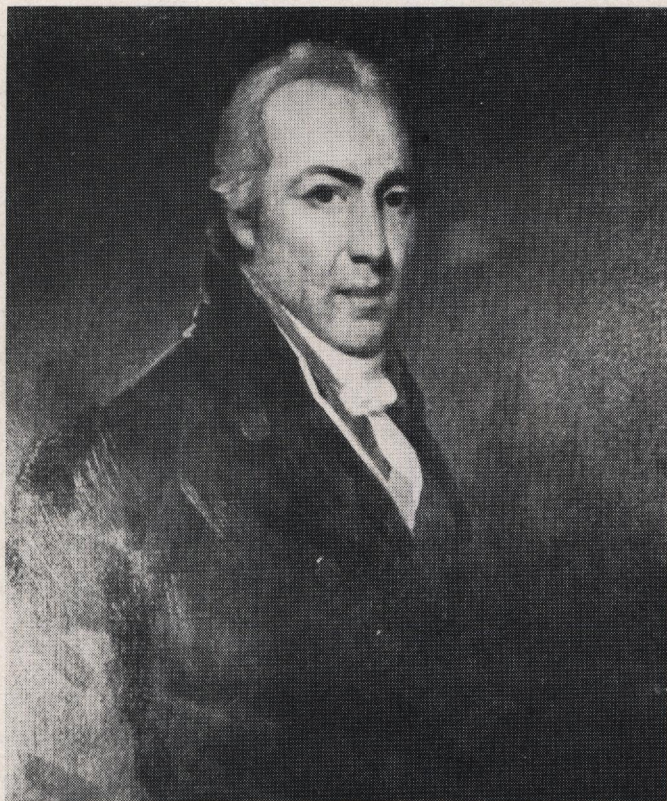
The Pennsylvania lands were sold for \$25,000. The Iroquois received most of this in goods such as blankets, tobacco, knives, and cloth. Some of the other items traded for the land you live on were twelve dozen looking glasses, two boxes of Jew's harps, and a gross of noseboobs!

The Problem of Transportation

Now that the Indian menace was ended and the northern tier was part of the United States, the Land of Tioga was officially open to settlers. However, the entire area was covered by a dense forest. There were no roads or navigable streams. The only way to enter the region was on foot. Before many pioneers would settle here, a road had to be cut through the forest. It was a lucky day for the future of Tioga County when Captain Charles Williamson decided to build a highway through this area.

Captain Williamson was a Scot who served as a British officer during the American Revolution. He married an American girl and became interested in this new country. When he returned to England, he was hired by an English company to develop their lands in America. The company held vast amounts of land in central New York.

Captain Williamson was very happy to return to his adopted land. He became an American citizen as soon as his boat landed and plunged into the woods to see how the new lands could be developed. After one trip into the wilderness, the anxious Scot came up with a plan. He decided the best way to get settlers onto his lands was to build a road from the West Branch of the Susquehanna to the Genesee River in New York. Such a road would cut through the heart of the Land of Tioga.



Charles Williamson

The Williamson road was a wild scheme. The highway would have to pass through nearly a hundred miles of wilderness. Two mountain spurs and dozens of streams had to be crossed. The weather would be troublesome and food and supplies would have to be transported a long way. Only a great adventurer like Charles Williamson would even try such a task.

Williamson persuaded a party of Germans, who had just arrived in America, to build his road. He promised them homelands in the fertile Genesee Valley. The agreement must have pleased the Germans

because they brought their families to Williamsport and started the road. They were joined by a handful of Pennsylvania axemen. The entire party was put in charge of Benjamin Patterson.

Mr. Patterson was a good choice to lead the strange group. He was an outstanding hunter and scout. His mother was a cousin to Daniel Boone. He had been an Indian fighter, an explorer, a spy, and could, "shoot the eye out of turkey at a hundred paces." It would take a tough frontiersman to get Captain Williamson's road built.

Problems of Building the Road. It seems the Germans were more trouble than help. The men knew nothing about living in the woods and the women and children increased the need for food and shelter. Besides this, many of them were frightened of the wilderness. The howling of wolves, the towering cliffs, and the wind whistling through the giant trees were things they had never experienced in Germany. The American woodsman told them all sorts of frightening stories about wild animals and Indians.

To make matters worse, the party ran out of coffee. This was the last thing the Germans had to remind them of their native country. Many of them wept and swore Williamson had sent them into the wilderness to die. At one point, Patterson had to threaten them with his tomahawk to make them work.

The unhappy road builders moved slowly through the forest. First they would build a log camp to use as their headquarters. After several miles of highway was finished, a new shelter would be built at the end of the road. The families and supplies would then be moved up to the new camp. In this way the company "leap frogged" through the wilderness until late November.

Two of these camps were located in what was to become Tioga County. One was the Block House at Liberty. The second, named Peter's Camp, was located at the present site of Blossburg. This camp was named after the company cook. The story is that Peter was not very skillful at keeping clean. The Americans wanted to help him with his problem so they threw him into the Tioga River when he reached the new camp. The new headquarters became Peter's Camp and the name stuck for many years.

While the party was working out of Peter's Camp, the autumn rains came and winter began to set in. Patterson realized if winter caught the party in the wilderness, they could perish. After several trips down the Tioga, he persuaded a farmer to deliver two tons of provisions to Painted Post. Then the clever scout rounded up all the

canoes he could borrow, buy, or build and brought them to a point several miles below Peter's Camp. To this day this spot is known as Canoe Camp.

When the Germans saw the canoes they were more frightened

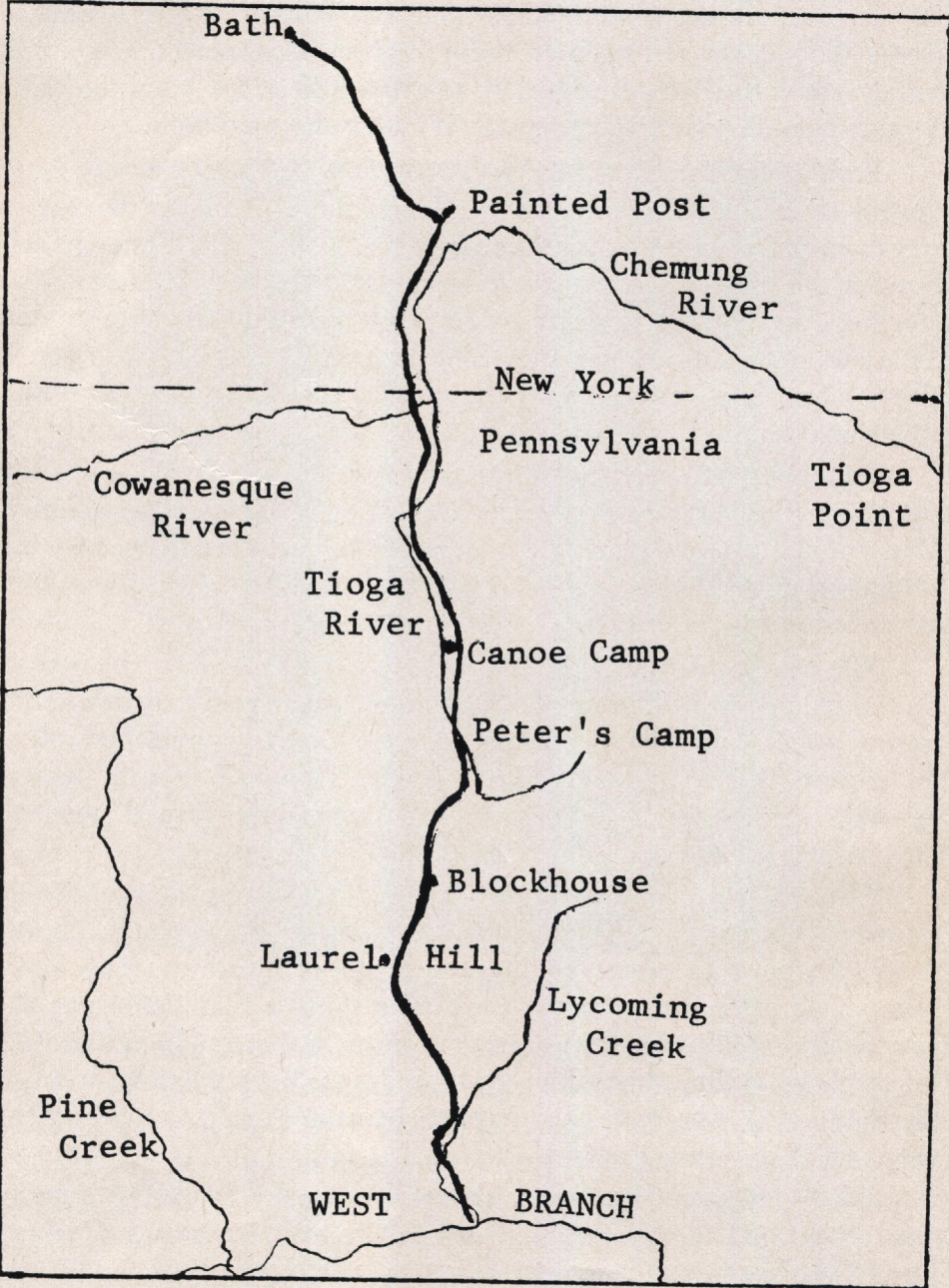


Figure 8.
The Williamson Road

than ever. Most of them would not trust such flimsy boats on the flooded river. The Americans simply loaded the women and children by force and shoved off.

The men who would not get aboard were left to follow the best way they could. Afraid they might be lost in the wilderness if they should lose sight of the boats, the Germans ran along the river bank trying to keep up. Where the forest was too thick or the bank too steep the frightened runners had to wade through the freezing water. Imagine the relief they must have felt when they reached the tiny village of Painted Post.

The Road is Finished. Patterson and a small band of the men later finished the road. Compared to today's highways, the Williamson Road was little more than a wagon path. Stumps were not removed, the crossings could not be used when the streams were high, and snow often closed the trail in winter. However, this famous highway opened millions of acres in northern Pennsylvania and southern New York to the settlers. For thirty years it was a main avenue to pioneers. People from the South came up the road and mixed with the Pennsylvanians and New Englanders. The Williamson Road did more than anything else to bring settlers to the Land of Tioga. In fact, it was with the opening of this highway, that the story of Tioga County really begins.

Chapter IV: The Coming of the Pioneer



The Pioneer Makes A Life in the Forest

Very few white men visited this area before the first settlers arrived. French explorers entered Northern Pennsylvania when France was trying to claim this region. A few scouts, hunters, and missionaries probably passed through these valleys. However, the endless hills, the gloomy forests, and the Indian menace caused the earliest pioneers to avoid this rugged country. It wasn't until three years after the Treaty of Fort Stanwix that the settlers arrived in the Land of Tioga.

The first white man to settle here is believed to be Samuel Baker. In 1787, the year before George Washington was elected president, Mr. Baker came from Connecticut to Tioga Point. From there he made his way through the wilderness to where the Tioga and Cowanesque Rivers meet. He probably followed the road cut by surveyors who marked the state line the year before. Here, where the village of Lawrenceville now stands, he built a crude cabin and planted a tiny garden.

Sometime during his first summer, Baker was joined by Captain Amos Stone. Captain Stone had gotten into trouble in Connecticut and was seeking to hide out in the wilderness. The following winter Baker

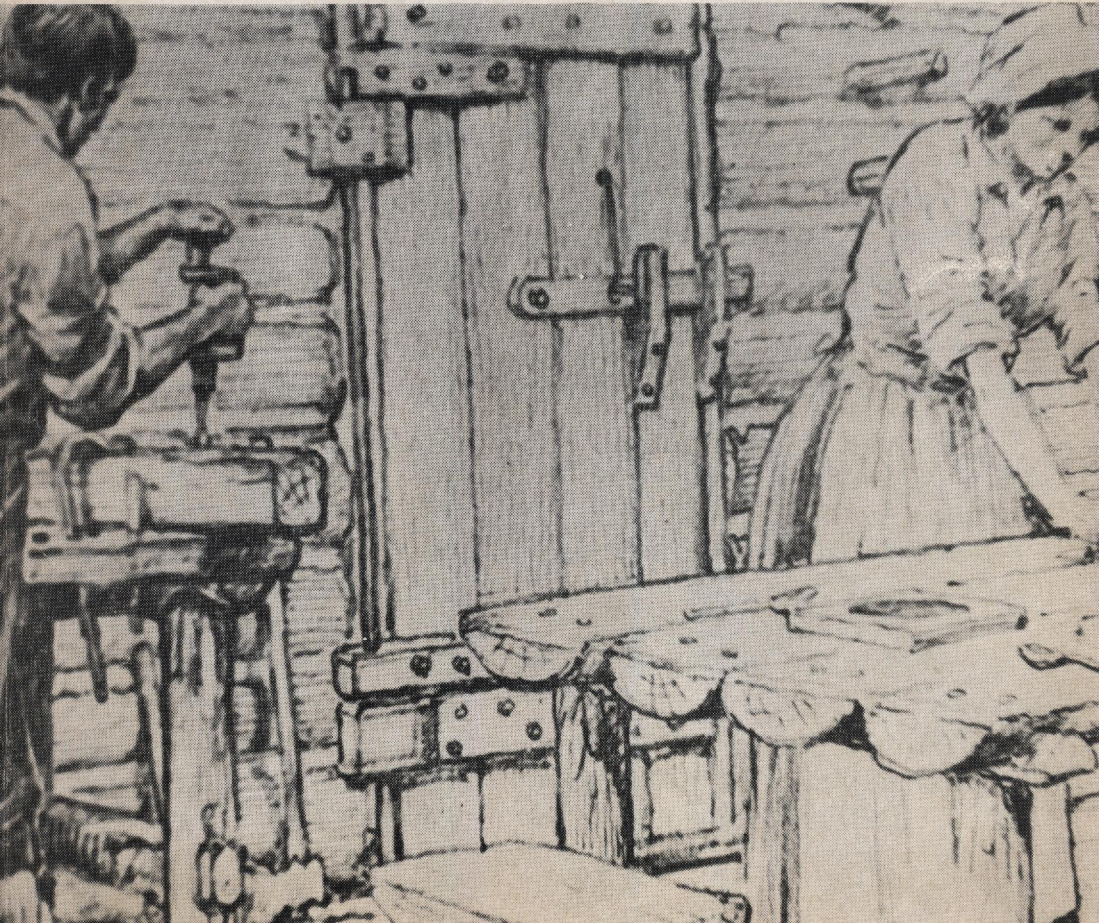
returned to civilization to join his family. When he came back in the spring, he found that Stone had made it through the winter with the help of a friendly Indian. Only then did Baker bring his family to their new home. He also brought his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniels.

Troubles of the First Settlers

This tiny party, which was soon joined by William Barney and William Holden, spent several harsh years in the wilderness. The hard work, the severe weather, and the loneliness made life very difficult. The nearest neighbor was at Painted Post and supplies had to be brought from Tioga Point, nearly seventy miles away. Life was not very comfortable and sometimes dangerous. Once Mrs. Baker had to save her young daughter from a rattlesnake. To add to their troubles, the settlers were not sure they really owned the land they lived on.

Sometime in 1892 the tiny settlement was visited by Captain Williamson. The Scot adventurer promised the pioneers fertile land

Notice all the tools used by early Settlers



with a clear title in the Genesee Valley. All except Holden followed Williamson to New York. All that was left of the first attempt to settle the Land of Tioga was one lonely pioneer.

Permanent Settlers Arrive. Once the Williamson Road was opened, settlers began to arrive in larger numbers. Rueben Cook became one of the earliest settlers in the Cowanesque Valley. Garrett Miller founded Millerton on Seelye Creek. Jesse Losey was the first of an army of pioneers to settle along the Tioga River. A land owner named James Strawbridge, who might have been here even earlier than Baker, began to develop a large tract near Knoxville. The Pine Creek Valley was entered from the south and cabins began to spring up along all the major streams. By 1800 there were nearly 800 people living among the wolves and panthers in this wild land.

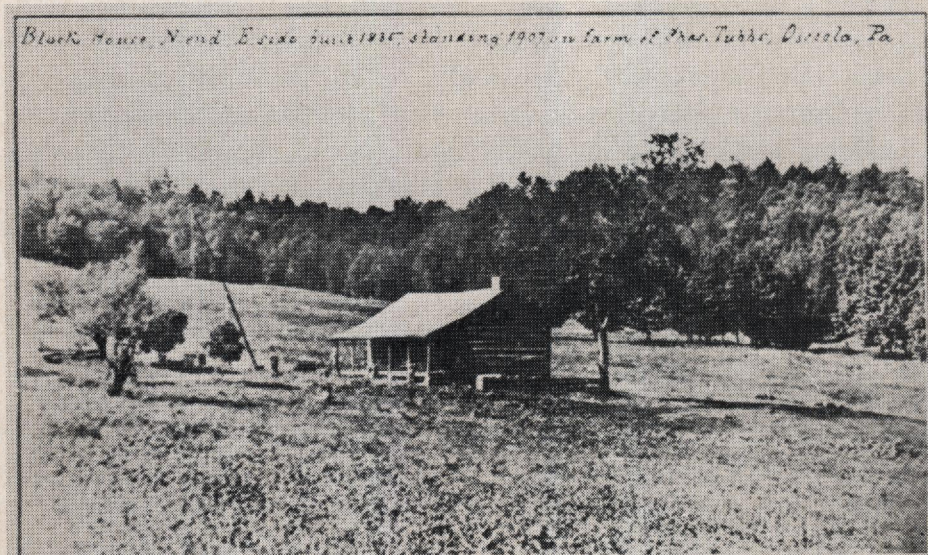
Jennings, Marvin, Spencer, Wilson, Culver, Allington, Blanchard, Cady, Bixby, Griggs, Seese, Bulkley, Putnam, Adams, Berry, Beecher, Gilett, and Inscho are a few of the family names that were being established in the region. Often the settlers would give their own names to the streams they found and the towns they built. Asa Mann cut a clearing on the banks of the Tioga. The meadow became known as Mann's field, and one of Tioga County's largest towns got a name. Wellsboro was named after Mary Wells Morris and the Aaron Bloss Inn soon gave Peter's Camp a new title. Dr. Willard helped found a town where Crooked Creek joins the Tioga River. This village was called Willardsburg for many years before it became Tioga. Do you know any streams or villages named for these pioneers: Lamb, Seelye, Knox, Phoenix, Niles, Holiday, Furman, Blackwell, Mitchell, Cummings, Dagett, Corey, Rose, Sebring, Babb, Sabin, Job, and Morris?

The Land of Tioga Becomes a County

While these people, and many others, were staking their claims in the wilderness, the Land of Tioga was part of Lycoming County. With so many people moving into the northern tier, the Lycoming courts decided to set up Tioga Township in 1797. The new township was soon named a voting district and old records show that Alexander Stone was paid fifty cents to build a ballot box. On March 26, 1804, Tioga Township, the old Seneca hunting grounds, became Tioga County.

The new county was almost named Submission. An early document actually used this name. However, the Indian name, Tioga, was on the official paper and Tioga it has been ever since.

There have been several ideas about the meaning of the word Tioga. Scholars at first thought it meant Gateway. Others believed, sweet water, or headwater, was the proper meaning. Today it is agreed that Tioga comes from a Seneca word which means, forks, or at the forks.



Black House, N. end. Erected 1836, standing 1907 on farm of Mr. Tubbs, Otsola, Pa.

A TYPICAL PIONEER LOG CABIN.

One of the county's most important settlers was Benjamin W. Morris. Mr. Morris, a member of a wealthy and important Quaker family from Philadelphia, did more than any other person to have Tioga set up as a county. He became the agent for the Pine Creek Land Company which owned huge grants of land in the new county. In 1805 he moved his family to Wellsboro so he could look after the interests of this company.

One of the first actions of Morris was to have the county seat located on his land. Villagers at Tioga thought the county offices should be in their town. At that time Tioga was the largest village in the county and most of the settlers lived nearby along the Tioga and Cowanesque Rivers. The arguments of the people of Tioga were no match for the influence of Morris, however, and the tiny, remote village of Wellsboro became the county seat.

Morris also used his influence to get a state highway built into Tioga County. In 1799 he persuaded the state to build a road from Newberry to Larry's Creek, over the mountains to Wellsboro, and on

to the New York State line. Mr. Morris was a contractor on the road and worked hard to complete the highway. In fact, the old Quaker probably spent land company funds, and even his own money, to get the job finished. Benjamin Morris is buried at Wellsboro near the heart of the county he did so much to build.

The Morris family influence was not buried with Benjamin. Samuel Wells Morris, the son, followed in his father's footsteps. Like his parents he became a leader in Tioga County life. He used his money and influence to help promote mining and agriculture. He was a leader in bringing a railroad to the county. At the age of twenty-six he became a judge and soon after was elected to the state legislature. Samuel Morris continued to work for the improvement of Tioga County until his death in 1847.

The Connecticut Problem

The early settlers were often troubled by the Connecticut problem. When the colony of Connecticut was set up, the King of England granted the founders a charter. This charter gave Connecticut a strip of land that reached from the Atlantic to the Pacific. At that time no one realized what a great distance this was. When William Penn

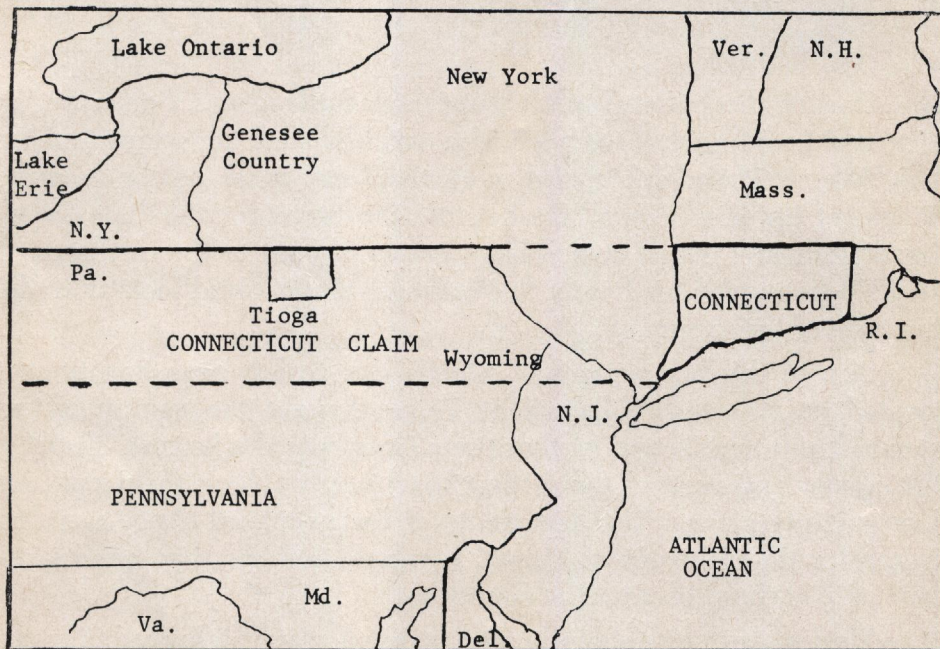


Figure 9.
The Connecticut Claim

founded Pennsylvania, it was discovered that the Connecticut grant covered the northern section of Penn's land.

No one worried much about this until "Yankees" from Connecticut started to settle here almost a hundred years later. A settler would buy a piece of this land from the State of Connecticut and come here to make a home. After working hard to improve his land, the "Yankee" would learn that someone had a Pennsylvania title to the same land. It is easy to see why bitter feelings arose. To make matters worse, swindlers would often cheat the honest settlers from both states. Things got so bad there was a small war in the Wyoming Valley.

Trouble in Tioga County

Many of Tioga's early settlers were "Yankees" with Connecticut titles and the trouble spread to this area. At Mansfield a surveyor marking Pennsylvania lots was shot, supposedly by a Connecticut landholder. At least one "Yankee" settler was "burned out." Most of the early court cases in the county concerned people who had Connecticut titles and were trying to get them cleared.

The two states finally came to an agreement on the matter. In Tioga County the New Englanders were treated fairly by the courts and were usually able to keep their farms. There was a lot of bad feeling, however, and many people carried their bitterness to the grave. In fact, some people feel the "Yankees" from the northern tier are still a little cool toward the "Dutchmen" from the rest of the state.

Hardships of the Frontier

Today we can only imagine how difficult life must have been to these first Tiogans. All work was done by hand. The trees were cut down with crude axes. The meat was obtained in the forest, the clothing made by hand, and the log and bark cabins were raised by muscle alone. Most people were very poor. One pioneer wrote that his family dressed in deerskins and he was ten years old before he had a pair of shoes. Very few people had cash. Often maple syrup, whiskey, or venison was used as money. Work lasted from daylight to darkness and was shared by all members of the family.

Medical help was very scarce. Usually the pioneers treated their own sickness with herbs, teas, and oils. The few doctors who practiced on the frontier were usually poorly trained. Without proper medicine and treatment, minor illnesses and injuries were often fatal.



The Pioneer Home was a Busy Place

When a baby was born, the mother was assisted by an untrained woman called a mid-wife. Such a person, Granny Cook, welcomed many of Tioga County's first citizens into the world. For this service she would charge a pound of tea!

The beasts of the forests were troublesome to the settlers and dangerous to their livestock. Several accounts of early life here describes problems with rattlesnakes. One of the first "industries" in the county was bounty hunting. From 1800 to 1810 hundreds of dollars were paid to Tiogans for killing panthers and wolves. One pioneer reported that he lost his most valuable possession when he hit a bear with his ax and the animal scampered away with the precious tool sticking between his shoulder blades. If you are a boy or girl who wishes for the excitement and adventure of these early days, remember how difficult the lives of your ancestors really were.

The early attempts at agriculture were frustrating. At first only Indian corn and buckwheat grew very well in this wild land. Wheat

rusted and oats would not mature. It took a generation to clear the trees and rocks so real farming could be carried on. Tools were primitive and the settler was fortunate if he could grow enough to feed his family. Starvation was always a danger and the fierce Tioga winters added to the farmer's problems.

Scratching away at the earth and hurling himself at the wilderness, this early farmer built the base for Tioga's agricultural industry. From the early times until today, farming has been the basic occupation in the county. The labor of the husbandman made the land bloom. Before the Nineteenth Century ended, Tioga County would be an important producer of grains, livestock, orchard and forest products, as well as dairy foods. To the hardworking farmer we must give much of the credit for turning the wilderness into the pleasant countryside we know today.

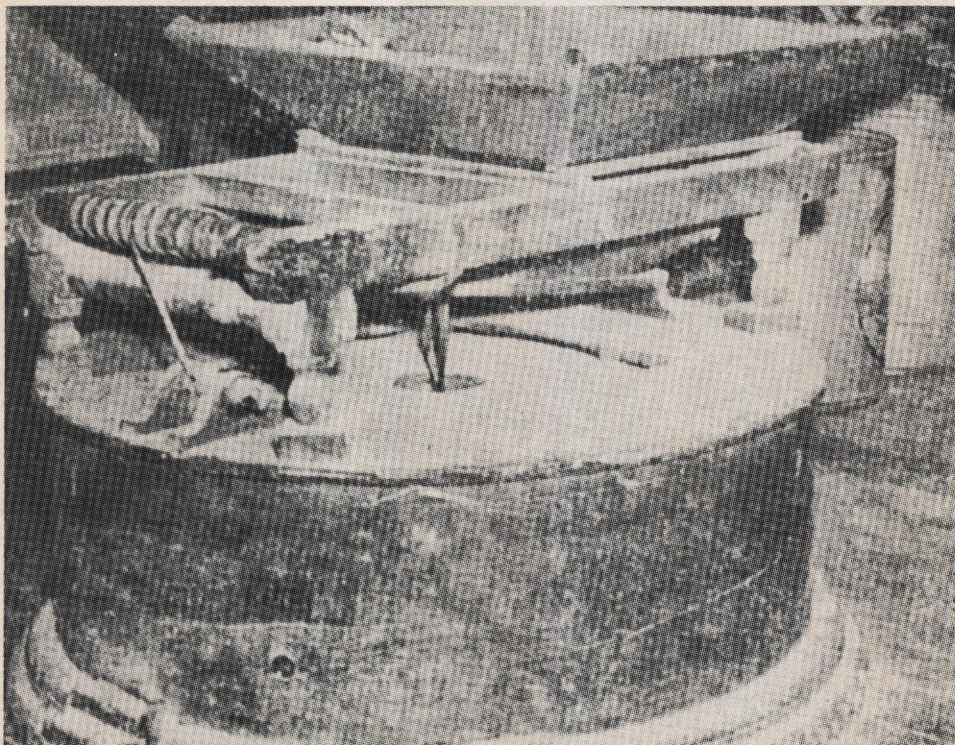


Early settlers had to grind their grain by Hand

Early Grist Mills. One of the first needs of the early farmer was a grist mill in which he could grind his grain. Before mills were built the settlers had to grind what they could in a hollow stump or rock. Most of the grain was hauled many miles to Tioga Point or Williamsport. One of the first mills used by Tioga settlers was built by John Norris just across the Lycoming County line. Mr. Norris was an agent for the Pine Creek Land Company and a friend of Benjamin W. Morris.

Aaron Gillet is believed to have built the first grist mill in the Tioga Valley. This mill was built near the mouth of Mill Creek in 1797. It was followed by the Prutsman mill at Tioga, the Marvin hand-mill at Mansfield, and a mill built by Amos Spencer at Canoe Camp. Samuel Fisher built one near Wellsboro before 1806. Benjamin W. Morris mentioned this mill in the newspaper ads that were used to persuade pioneers to settle in Wellsboro. Aynes Tuttle of Westfield and Bethlehem Thompson of Knoxville both were running gristmills along the Cowanesque during the War of 1812. Aaron Furman and Asaph Ellis were the pioneer mill owners in the Pine Creek Valley.

These early mills were crude, water powered affairs that used huge stone wheels to crush the grain. The owners could not have made



An old Grist Wheel

much money. The fee was usually paid in grain and the mills were always in danger of being washed away by floods. In spite of the risks and the low profit, grist mills sprang up throughout the area. In 1840 there were twenty-six mills in Tioga County. As time passed the larger mills became steam powered and the small operations were put out of business.

The Pioneers Make Whiskey. Another "industry" that was important in these early days was the making of whiskey. As well as grinding grain, most of the grist mills made rye, corn, and even potato whiskey! Distilleries appeared in the Cowanesque Valley, at Wellsboro, and along the banks of the Tioga River at a very early date. At one time or another almost every village in the county had a small "still."

Whiskey was very important on the frontier. The pioneers used it as a medicine for everything from fever to toothache. It was sometimes spiced with sugar or maple syrup and served at meals. The woodsman usually carried it in his knapsack. It was often used as an item of trade in place of money. In fact, whiskey was so valuable, there is a story that it was even used to pay the salary of the minister.

Many Kinds of People Came to Tioga County

It took a brave and hard working person to face life in the wilderness. Many of the early settlers made fine military records before coming here. Samuel Baker was supposed to have been captured by soldiers of the English General Burgoyne. One of the pioneers served with Napoleon at Moscow and another commanded the American artillery at the Battle of Newtown. A Bunker Hill veteran, a member of Washington's staff, and even a British soldier were among Tioga's first citizens.

Some of the people who braved this wilderness were members of famous and wealthy families. William Clymer was a grandson of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Samuel Baker's mother-in-law was related to Martin Van Buren, a President of the United States. Relatives of the great English poet Lord Byron and of Commodore Oliver Perry found homes here. One Cowanesque settler was believed to be a Dutch nobleman.

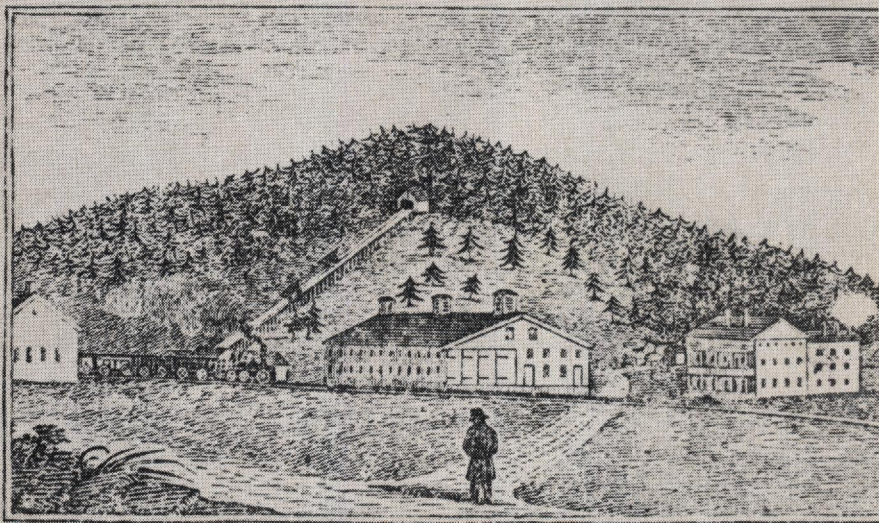
All the pioneers were not perfect citizens, of course. A man who ran an inn at the Liberty Block House was a thief and a rascal. Our first permanent settler was a heavy drinker and is believed to have sold his holdings at Lawrenceville for a barrel of whiskey. Tories, men fleeing

military duty, and all sorts of lawbreakers are known to have sought refuge on the frontier. Many of these fugitives became responsible citizens. In Tioga, as in any other county, many families could find a deserter or a horse thief among their ancestors.

Most of the pioneers who came here were simple, honest, religious people. They worked hard and obeyed the laws. They spent their lifetimes toiling in poverty so their children and grandchildren could have a better life.

As you can see, many kinds of people settled here. Some were rich but most were poor. A few were cowardly, lazy, or dishonest but the greatest number were hardworking, honest, and courageous. "Yankees" from New England, Germans and English from Europe, Scotch-Irish from downstate, Southerners from Virginia and Maryland, and many others cast their lot in this wilderness. Like the rest of America, Tioga County was built by all sorts of people from all sorts of places.

Chapter V: The Story of Coal



HOTEL, DEPOT, AND COAL MINE AT BLOSSBURG

The early settlers made very slow progress in their struggle against the wilderness. Fifty years after the Williamson Road was opened, Tioga County was still largely a wild land. The lumberman had begun chopping down the forest and the farmer was able to earn a modest living. Small frontier industries such as grist mills, tanneries, and saw mills were in operation, but progress came slowly to the northern tier.

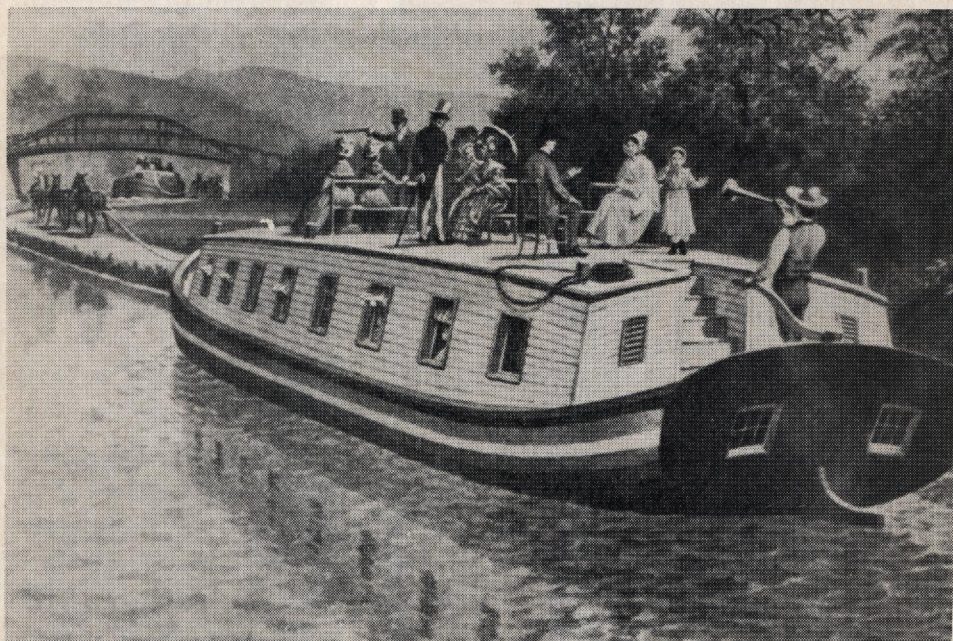
The roads were wagon tracks. The short trip to Elmira was a hard, two day journey for most Tiogans. Supplies had to be transported many miles. As much of the United States made progress in industry and transportation, Tioga County remained isolated and untamed. It wasn't until the coal fields at Blossburg were opened that the development of this area was speeded up.

Coal is believed to have been discovered near Blossburg as early as 1792. In that year the Williamson Road was being cut through the forest. Peter's Camp had been built on the upper Tioga River. It was while working out of this camp, the story goes, that Benjamin Patterson, and his brother Robert, found coal among the rocks. The road builders did not seem to think their discovery was important. They were much more interested in finishing their road and escaping this "wretched wilderness." Today we can see this discovery was very important to the history of Tioga County.

Aaron Bloss became the first permanent settler at Peter's Camp and gave his name to the village that grew up there. Mr. Bloss knew about the coal but did not mine it himself. David Clemons is believed to be the first to mine coal in the county. After making an agreement with Bloss, Clemons opened a drift near Bear Creek about 1815. This drift, or mine tunnel, was near what is now the business section of Blossburg.

This first miner could not have made much money. The work was done entirely by hand. The coal had to be carried by wagon to Painted Post. It was a small beginning, but the hard work and vision of David Clemons helped start an industry that would "boom" in the century to follow.

Mining did not become important in Tioga County until a better method was found for getting the coal to market. Aaron Bloss and other interested people tried to get the state to improve the Williamson Road from Blossburg to Williamsport. When this was refused, local citizens became interested in a canal along the Tioga River. The Tioga Navigation Company was granted a charter to make the river navigable. The people in the valley received this news with great joy. Plans were drawn up and the job of cleaning out the river was begun. Many farmers along the stream worked on their own time to get the channel ready for navigation.



Many Canals were in operation at this time

By 1836, ten years after New Yorkers had built the Erie Canal to connect the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes, the "Tioga Canal" was believed to be ready. You can imagine how excited residents in the Tioga Valley must have been. Crude boats, called arks, were loaded with coal at Blossburg and set afloat on the river. The arks sank before "any great distance had been made!"

The disappointed people of Tioga County gave up the idea of water transportation for their coal. They now understood that local streams were too small and the area was too mountainous for canals. While people all over the country were building canals as fast as they could, Tiogans realized the future of their county would depend on the railroad.

The Corning to Blossburg Railroad

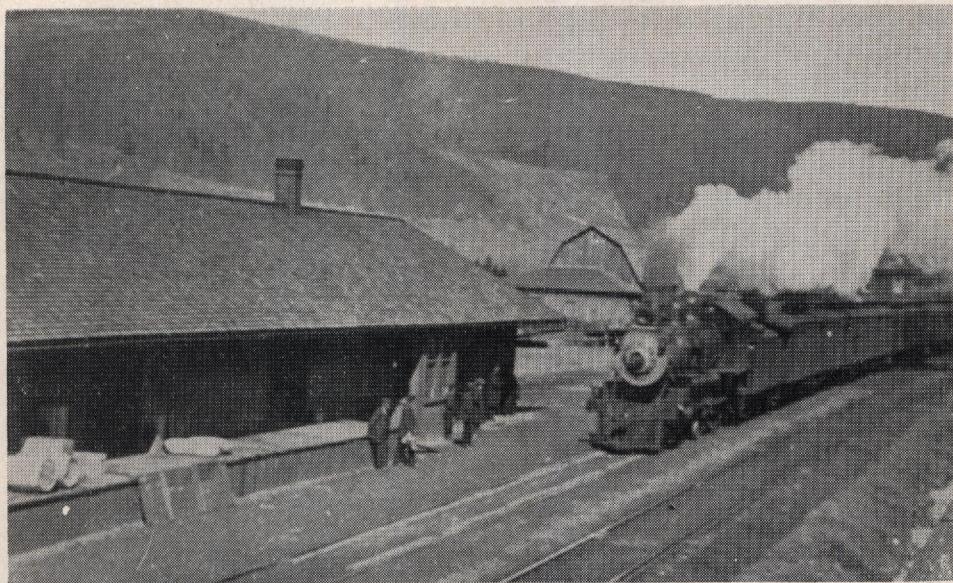
Several leading citizens joined forces to try to get a railroad for shipping the coal. In those day railroads were new to the world. Steam engines were not reliable and were even dangerous. What a risk this handful of men were taking to invest their money and time in such a "new fangled" idea. The Tioga Navigation Company got a charter to build a railroad from Blossburg to Lawrenceville. At the same time another company was organized to extend the road from Lawrenceville to the canal at Corning.

The Corning to Blossburg railroad was opened in 1840. At the time it was a pioneer railroad and one of the first ever built for the transporting of coal. How proud local people must have been when the first steam engine chugged its way up the Tioga Valley.

What a railroad it was! Rails of strap iron were placed on stringers. The stringers were much smaller and farther apart than the cross ties used later. The rolling stock was crude and rode on narrow rails at speeds up to twenty miles per hour. Sometimes a rail would tear loose and spring up through the floor of the train. Sparks from the engine were a menace to anything on the train or near the track.

In spite of the problems, the railroad was a great advance for Tioga County. Farmers, lumbermen, manufacturers, and miners could transport their products. The road reached the Chemung Canal that connected with the Erie Canal. This gave Blossburg coal, and other Tioga products, a route to markets almost anywhere in the world.

Imagine the change that came over the tiny village of Blossburg. A tramway was built from the Clemon's drift to the valley below. Scores of miners bored into the mountain and the fast-growing town



An old steamer pulls into Middlebury

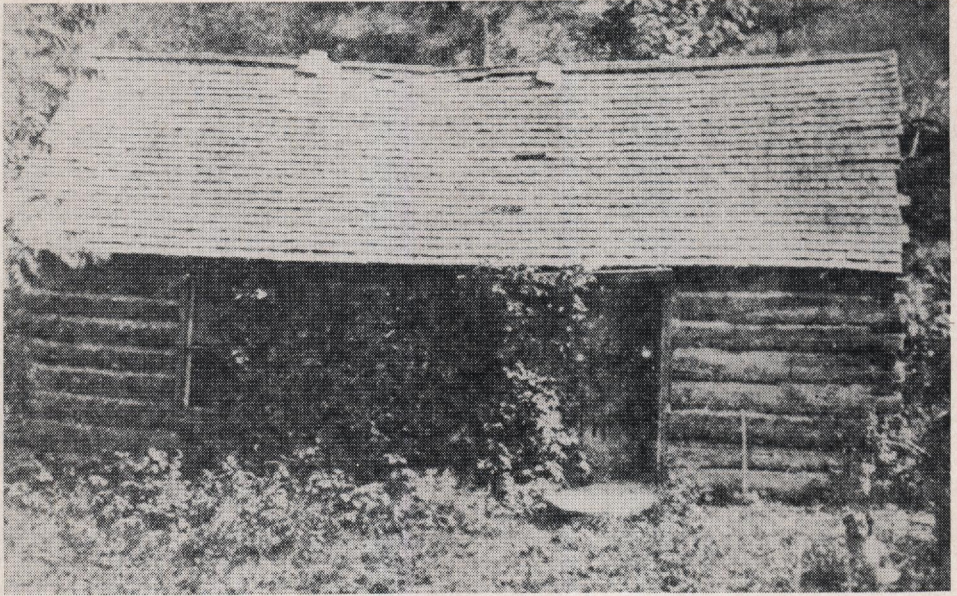
became a beehive of activity. Sawmills and stores sprang up almost overnight. Puffing trains brought car loads of miners and carried away tons of coal. Tioga County had its first "boom town."

The mines at Blossburg shipped over a half million tons of coal in the next twenty years. The semi-bituminous coal found here proved to be of good quality and gained a fine reputation. One story has it that coal from Blossburg once sold for \$25 a ton in the gold fields out west!

The village prospered along with the mines. A foundry, tannery, sawmill, brewery, and railroad shop were built. Polish miners, "yankee" traders, and Irish railroaders made their homes here. Men who worked nearby often lived in Blossburg. Long after other coal centers became ghost towns, "Bloss" remained one of the leading communities in the county. The village also gave its name to all the coal that was mined throughout the area.

The Morris Run Mines. The coal field was next tapped at Morris Run. The railroad was extended to the new mines in 1853. The Morris Run mines were very successful. Over 300,000 tons of coal were shipped in the first two years. When the Civil War increased the need for fuel, more and more was produced. At one stage over 200,000 tons a year were being mined.

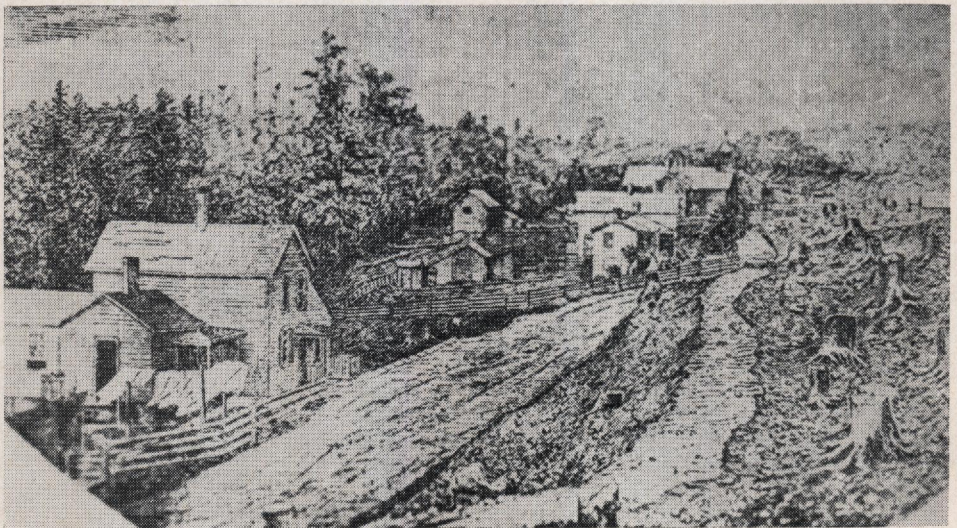
Morris Run also became a "boom town." Two public schools, a Catholic school, seven churches, and a telegraph office lined the streets of the village. The population grew to 2350. Today Morris Run is a



An original log cabin at Morris Run

tiny, mountain village. In the last half of the Nineteenth Century, however, it was a rough and tumble mining town, probably something like the western towns you see on television.

Fall Brook. Another source of coal was discovered at Fall Brook by the Magee family of Bath, New York. The Magees had earlier become interested in the Blossburg coal fields. John Magee had purchased stock in the Corning to Blossburg railroad and had "modern-



Fall Brook 1874

ized" the road. The Magees next leased and improved the mines at Blossburg. Duncan Magee, the oldest son, found a workable coal deposit on Fall Brook near the headwaters of the Tioga River. A few years after mining had begun at Morris Run, the Magees opened their mine at Fall Brook. The railroad was extended to the new village and mining began immediately.

The explosive growth of Fall Brook was much like the development of Morris Run and Blossburg. One year it was an unbroken wilderness. Four years later 1400 people lived there. Stores, houses, churches, and schools popped up like mushrooms. The population reached 2300 at one point.

Today there is hardly a trace of the old mining town. The silent forest stands where bustling wagons, shouting children, and smokey trains once made so much noise. The well-run, efficient mines, the pride of the Magee empire, are closed. The drab houses, the company store, and the saw mills have disappeared. Most people in Tioga County today will tell you Fall Brook is a state park. Memory of the old coal town is growing very dim.

Arnot. Almost the same story was repeated at Arnot. This village, first called Draketown, was built by the Blossburg Coal Mining



There were many children in Arnot at one Time

and Railroad Company shortly after the Civil War. The railroad was built from Blossburg to the new site and mining was begun on a large scale.

The operation at Arnot was one of the largest in the history of the county. These mines could produce 1400 tons of coal in one day! Coke ovens were built and some of the coal was converted to coke on the spot.

Arnot became the largest community in Tioga County within fifteen years. In the 1880's it seemed to be a town with a future. In the 1960's, Arnot is a hamlet of several hundred people. Things are quiet in Arnot today but the town was an exciting place during the coal "boom."

Other Coal Towns. Two other Tioga villages, Antrim and Gurnee, were given birth by the coal industry. Gurnee, north of Gaines, was the site of a small, hard-to-work vein that caused a brief surge of activity. The coal at Antrim, however, had a big influence on the development of the county.

The Antrim mines were developed by the Magee family. The new town was named after the county in Ireland from which the Magees had come. To get Antrim coal to the market, a railroad was built that gave Wellsboro its first railroad and really helped the growth of the central part of the county.

Mining in the Early Days. The work in these early mines was incredibly hard. A miner's day was usually fourteen hours long. Some months he would enter the pits before daylight and work until after dark. Often he would not see the light of day for a week at a time. The mines were usually damp and always dirty. The coal seams were often so narrow the worker could not stand upright while he worked. A miner had to learn to squat for hours while he "hacked" away with his three pound pick.

An experienced miner could "scratch out" about five tons of coal a day. The coal was put on a small car which was pushed from the "heading" being worked to the main shaft. Here the cars would be made into a "train" and pulled by mules to the surface. Young boys were used to drive the mules, carry props, and tend the fires. The fires forced fresh air into the mines. A blaze would be built under a ventilating shaft. When the hot air would rise and go out the shaft, fresh air would be drawn into the mine.

There was always danger in the mines. The gasses in the air could catch fire or the air flow could stop and cause workers to suffocate.

The most serious threat was cave-ins. Cave-ins occurred most often when the mine was almost worked out. As the miners dug into the mountain, they would leave pillars of coal standing for support. When they worked back toward the opening they would remove these pillars, sometimes causing the roof to collapse.

The early miner was well dressed for his work. A heavy shirt and woolen underwear were worn under overalls, a warm vest, and a jacket. Woolen stockings, the hard hat, and "heavy cowhide shoes, well nailed," completed the uniform. An oil lamp was fastened to the hat to provide light. Whale or lard oil was burned and an old miner could keep track of time by how long his flame would last.



A work day at the Mines

The miner was black with soot and soil when he left the pits. He would bathe in an iron tub set up in the family kitchen. Hot water was heated on the cooking stove. The tub was filled and emptied by hand. In spite of this inconvenience, the miner would finish his bath "as fresh and clean as any gentleman in the land."

A Strike in the Mines. Toward the end of the Civil War, there was a very serious strike in the Tioga County mines. The mines had "boomed" during the war and it was hard to find enough workers to dig the coal. The coal companies had to pay high wages and even allowed the miners to form a labor union. The miners' union kept mak-

ing more and more demands on the companies. The mine owners didn't like the union demands and tried to find ways to fight back. The owners learned that miners from Morris Run were living in houses owned by the Fall Brook Coal Company. An investigation showed that miners from Fall Brook were also living in the company houses at Morris Run. The rival companies immediately set out to evict these "trespassers." This action made the miners very angry and they went on strike.

The coal companies did everything they could to drive out the "illegal tenants." Eviction notices were ignored. Warning letters did no good. Even the local justices could not persuade the miners to leave "their" homes. Finally the sheriff and a posse of nearly 300 men were sent to evict the "claim jumpers." In Morris Run the posse was met by a large crowd of miners and the fight was on! Fist fights, wrestling matches, club swinging, and even a few shots were part of the battle. Scores were injured. Many coal workers were tied up and dragged away to jail. When the smoke cleared, the miners were bruised but not beaten. The workers held on to the houses the companies wanted so badly.

The sheriff and the coal companies now realized how serious their problem was. Afraid of more violence, they asked the Governor for help. Governor Curtin, who had spent four years helping President Lincoln in the war effort, was in no mood for nonsense. He immediately sent soldiers from the famous Bucktail regiment to straighten out the mess. Order was quickly restored. The trespassers and their belongings were carried away on railroad cars and dumped onto the streets of Blossburg.

This broke the strike and the union. By the time the miners returned to work the war was over. Coal was not as badly needed and the price fell. This meant lower wages for the workers. The famous strike had been a failure.

Mining Helped the County Grow. It is not hard to see how important the coal industry has been to the development of Tioga County. People and money were attracted to the area. Workers from almost every country in Europe came to dig the coal. The railroads were pushed through the forests to transport the ore to market. The farmer, the lumberman, and the manufacturer would all benefit from the railroad and more growth would follow. A few decades after the Corning to Blossburg Railroad was opened, the county was tied together by bands of steel. The "Iron Horse" was chugging up the Cowanesque,

down the Grand Canyon, and along most of the old Seneca trails. The European laborer was mixing his blood with the northern tier "Yankee." Catholics from Poland and Ireland were working side-by-side with the older Protestant stock. The foundation of Tioga County was laid.

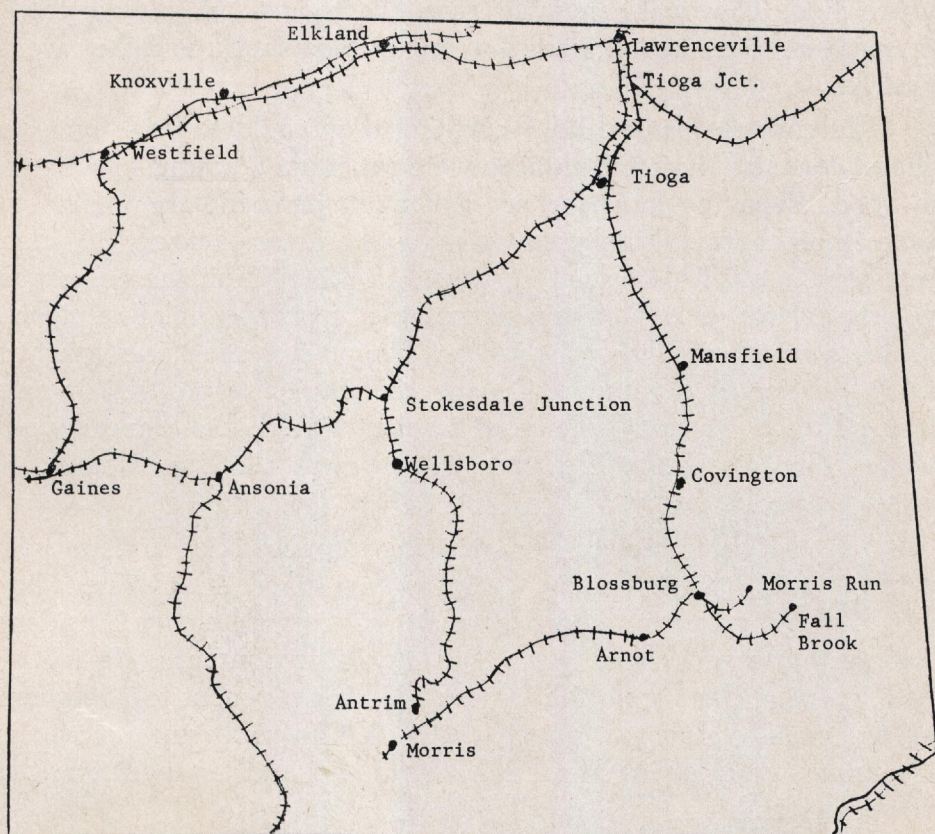


Figure 10.
Railroads in Tioga County in 1890

Chapter VI: The Civil War



The Civil War

While the people of Tioga County were busy carving their homes out of the forest, slavery became a very serious problem in America. In the South Negro slaves were being used to do the work on the large cotton plantations. At first Northerners were willing to overlook slavery even though they did not like it. However, like most troubles that are ignored, the problem grew worse and worse. When Abraham Lincoln was elected President, the South angrily left the Union. Finally, in April, 1861, Southern artillery fired on the American flag at Fort Sumter. The Civil War was on!

Tiogans Become Angry. News of Fort Sumter raced like a forest fire through the valleys and villages of Tioga County. Area citizens

acted as if they had been struck in the face. Large numbers of men met on street corners and cursed the Southern leaders. On the streets of Knoxville a parade formed as if by magic. The council at Wellsboro voted to support the family of any man who would join Mr. Lincoln's army. A farmer who was believed to favor the South was dragged to his knees and made to ask forgiveness. Torches and gas lights blazed into the night and hardly anyone was able to sleep. So great was the excitement at Liberty, the people forgot to have church services on Sunday morning!

This commotion and anger showed how the people of Tioga County felt about an attack on the flag. Their loyalty was also shown by the eagerness with which the men rushed to the service of their country. "Almost before the smoke had cleared at Fort Sumter," hundreds of young Tiogans began making plans to march off to war.

The Men Go To War

Shortly after the war began, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to save the Union. In those days army units were often formed by local groups who elected their own officers. No less than 600 young men organized into Tioga companies and set off to enlist.

Can you imagine the scene created when one of these groups marched out from a Tioga County community? Some had deer rifles. Others carried odd pieces of military equipment or wore part of an old uniform. We can picture mothers and sweethearts crying and excited young boys skipping along behind the marchers. Waving flags, old men watching proudly, and makeshift bands were probably all part of the scene as this "rag-tag" army marched off "to teach those Southern rascals a lesson."

The volunteers marched to Troy and took a train to Camp Curtin near Harrisburg. More than two companies of Tiogans were sworn into the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Reserves. This unit was made up of men from the lumber country of northern and western Pennsylvania. These backwoodsmen were easy to find even at crowded Camp Curtin. Their crude dress and rough manners earned them the nickname, "Wildcats." Almost every man had the tail of a deer flapping from his hat. Even though the tail usually came from a female deer, the regiment became known as the Bucktails.

The Bucktails fought in many of the important battles of the Civil War. The regiment became the pride of the Keystone State. They helped win one of the first Northern victories at Dranesville. General



Lieutenant Charles L. Hoyt
Mrs. Kenneth MacLean, Elkland, Pa.

A Bucktail

Meade gave the unit special praise after the second battle of Bull Run. A Civil War historian has said about the Bucktails: "So marked was their bravery, that they became the pride of our own soldiers and the terror of the foe."

Bucktail losses were among the highest for Pennsylvania regiments. Fifty-two boys from this unit never returned to the forest and farms of Tioga County. When the regiment finished its service, "Wildcat" was not used to refer to the "woodsy" appearance of the northern tier soldier. It was used to describe his ability as a fighting man.

The Fighting Forty-fifth. Over three full companies of Tiogans joined the Forty-fifth Pennsylvania Infantry. This regiment did most of its fighting in the West under General Grant. The "Fighting Forty-

fifth” helped capture the Mississippi valley and engaged in much of the action in Tennessee. When most of the men re-enlisted, the regiment was given a veteran’s furlough. The Tioga winter was really “warmed-up” when these homesick fighters returned in February of 1864. The Forty-fifth got back to the lines in time to help their old commander finally crush Lee’s fine army. One hundred forty-nine Tioga County men from this regiment gave their lives to their country.

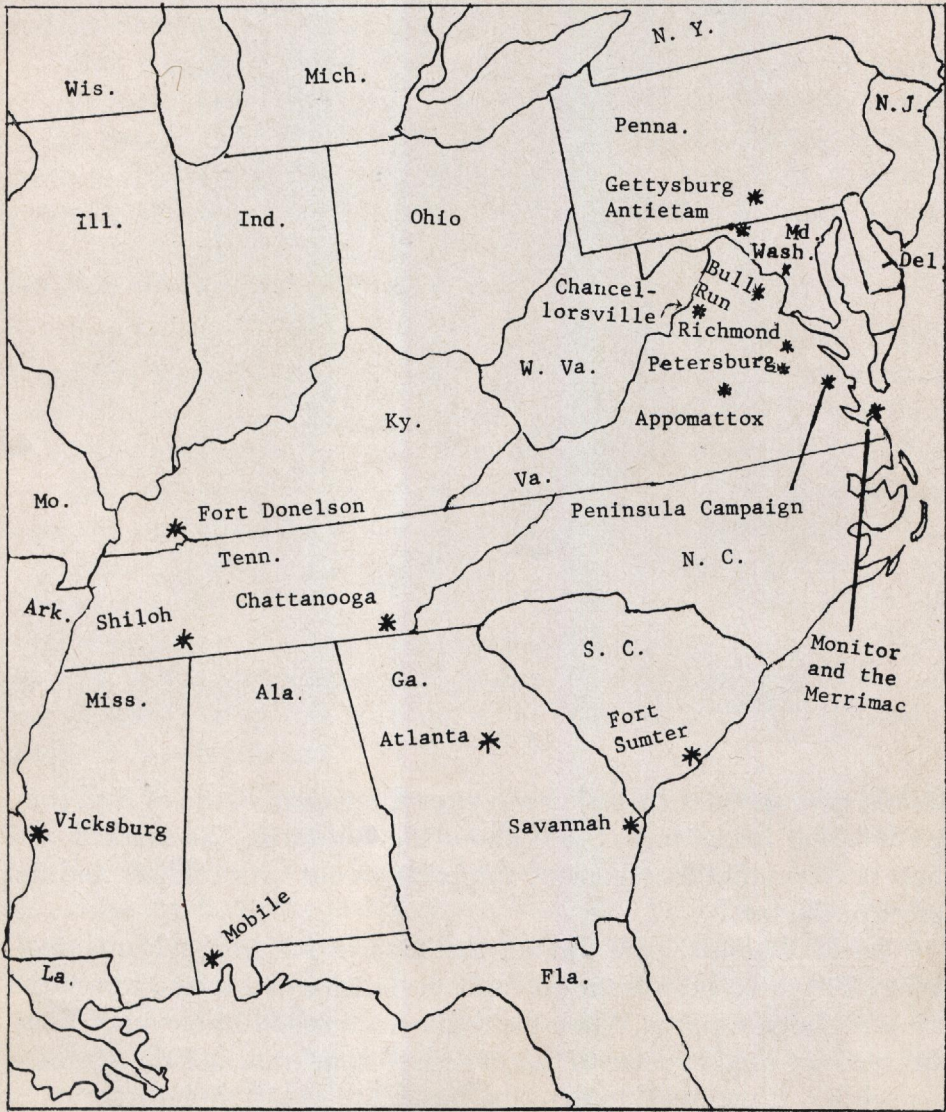


Figure 11.
Important Battles in the Civil War

Other Regiments. Two other regiments were heavily stocked with Tioga County men. The 207th left thirty-four Tiogans buried near Richmond. The 149th, the new Bucktails, contained 140 men from Tioga County. In the first day's fighting at Gettysburg, this group became famous. Under Abner Doubleday, the founder of American baseball, the 149th helped hold off a much larger Southern force all day before falling back on Cemetery Ridge.

Many other area soldiers were scattered among regiments throughout the nation. One company of the Sixth Pennsylvania Reserves was known as the Tioga Invincibles. Some Tiogans fought the entire war with the Army of the Potomac. Others rode with the cavalry out west or manned the trenches near Washington. Many joined temporary units and served short "hitches" in times of emergency.

All was not glory for the soldiers from the county. One entire company of Tiogans was captured in North Carolina. Many "Wildcats" died in Southern prisons. One local company suffered a tragedy that was terrible even for wartime. While guarding a bridge in South Carolina, the Tioga unit fired on a group of men moving silently through a dark, foggy woods. When daylight came, they discovered they had killed two of their own men! Nineteen more were wounded. It is not hard to realize the grief those Tioga farmboys felt that day.

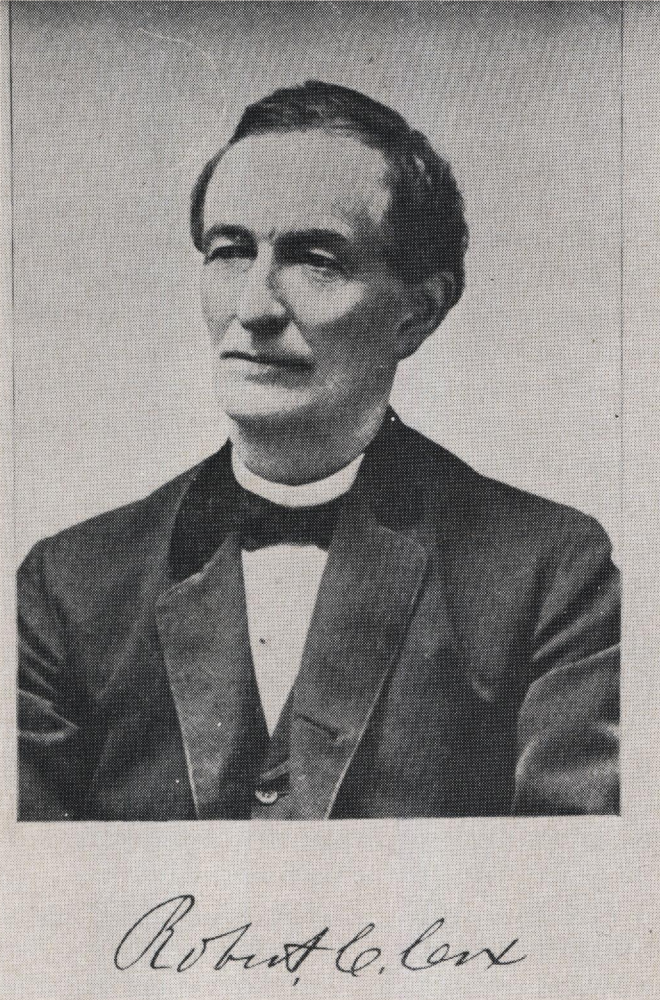
Many officers from Tioga County built fine military records during the Civil War. Captains, untrained in warfare but elected by their men to lead them, were often promoted to majors or colonels. Junior officers became captains and led companies into battle. Several county doctors and preachers gave their much needed services to the cause. Two Tiogans, James Carle of Tioga, one of the first volunteers, and Robert Cox of Liberty, rose to the rank of general.

General Cox has written a small book about his experiences. When the war opened he was a military inspector for Tioga County. Although he helped recruit volunteers, he was not accepted for active duty himself. He finally arranged to serve as a major in a draftee outfit. Late in the war Governor Curtin picked the Liberty officer to raise a new regiment in the counties of the northern tier. Cox got his men into action in time for the final, bloody weeks of the war. After the battle of Fort Sedgwick his commander wrote:

To Col. R. C. Cox, who commanded the leading regiment, I owe the entire good success that attended the charge. Foremost among those who scaled the enemy's works, cheering his men with his courage, preparing them to meet the many charges of the enemy to retake the lines, and thus beating

them back each time, with heavy losses in killed and wounded, he is deserving of the highest praise.

This report helped Cox win his promotion to general.



Robert Cox was a modest and honest gentleman as well as a brave soldier. He was shocked when he discovered his "Wildcats" stole a pig from a Southern farm and he couldn't believe it when he found some of his men drunk while on duty. He felt his greatest achievement was saving a county boy from the firing squad. The young soldier had fallen asleep on guard duty. Cox went to Washington and asked President Lincoln to pardon the boy. The soldier, who was being held in Elmira, was given his freedom and arrived home before Cox. The kindly old soldier buried his horse in the family plot at Wellsboro.

These tender acts show why General Cox was loved by his men and greatly respected by the people of Tioga County.

The Tioga County Soldier. It is hard, a century later, to tell what the Civil War soldier from Tioga County was really like. In some ways he was nearly ready for battle when he left home. In the forests of the northern tier a boy grew up with a rifle in his hand. The back-breaking work of a farm or mine made child's play out of a soldier's regular chores. Spending the winter in a tent was not too hard for men who had tramped for hours through frozen forests in search of game. Even the tasteless army chow was better than much of the food served in the lumber camps.

Military discipline was probably harder on these backwoods recruits than the weary work in the field. Used to working alone, the "Wildcats" must have been annoyed by endless military regulations. Outside of stealing Virginia apples or cooking Southern chicken, however, there is little evidence that Tioga soldiers didn't follow army rules. Even though run-away soldiers could have easily hidden among the hills of this area, Tioga County had very few deserters.

Three-thousand sons of Tioga served in this struggle. They fought from the first skirmish at Bull Run until the South surrendered at Appomatox. "Wildcats" marched into Vicksburg with Grant, raced through the Shenandoah Valley behind Sheridan, and cut a path through Georgia with Sherman. Forty-seven died before Petersburg in the last few days of the war. Nearly 700 from the country were present those crucial three days at Gettysburg. When the war finally ended, nearly 500 of Tioga County's finest young men lay buried beneath the soil of their native land.

The Civil War, it has been said, saved the Union. The citizens of Tioga County can be very proud. At the time when our country needed help most, the men of Tioga County set aside their axes, their hoes, and their picks and helped save the nation they loved.



The Civil War monument in Wellsboro

Chapter VII: Lumbering



A Virgin Forest

The early settlers were amazed by the huge forest they found in their new country. Most of eastern North America was covered by trees of every description. This mighty woodland stretched from Maine to Minnesota and reached from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

In northern Pennsylvania the hillsides and valleys were covered by a blanket of white pine trees. Hemlocks crowned the mountain tops. Other softwoods and hardwoods also grew here, but it was mainly an evergreen forest. So dense was the foliage, in many places the rays of the sun could not reach the forest floor. Even the bravest pioneer found the deep woods a little frightening.

Most of the trees were very large. They were larger than the biggest trees we see growing in Tioga County today. Often it would take three men to reach around a single trunk. One pioneer wrote that the trees were so high, it took two-and-a-half people to see the top!

The earliest settlers considered the trees a nuisance. It took years to cut a field out of the forest. After the trees were cleared away, an

entire lifetime could be spent removing the stumps. It was a happy day for the settlers when they learned they could sell their timber for hard cash.

Lumbering Begins. In 1800 George McClure of Bath, New York moved a lumber raft down the Chemung River. The date the first raft floated out of Tioga County is unknown. It was not long before Tiogans began sending their timber downstream to market. Soon the lumberman moved in and the greatest "boom" in the history of the county was underway.

The first fifty years of lumbering in Tioga County are known as the age of white pine. Pine lumber made an excellent building material. The straight trunks produced a wood that had few knots and a good grain. Hardwoods were also cut but the early lumberman gave



Lumbering was hard work

most of his attention to these towering evergreens.

Sawmills appeared almost as soon as the pioneers began to fell the trees. Though the woodsman could do a lot with his axe, the mills were needed to cut the logs into boards and planks. The Norris Mill south of the county line and the Fisher mill near Wellsboro were both sawing lumber before 1806. About that time Sampson Babb started a sawmill at the present site of Morris. The rich timberland along Pine Creek caused many mills to be built there. Richard Ellis opened a mill at Ansonia. John Smith constructed one at Gaines. Reuben Harrington, Richard Phillips, John Phoenix, Aaron Furman, and Dudley Hewitt are a few others who established sawmills along the stream the Indians called Tiadaghton.

Sawmills also popped up along the Tioga and Cowanesque Rivers around 1800. Dr. William Willard built a mill at Tioga shortly after Elihu Marvin opened one at Mansfield. Amos Spencer of Canoe Camp, Joseph Middaugh and Adam Hart of Lawrence Township, and Eddy Howland of Knoxville were in business before the War of 1812. Other early mills are known to have existed at Academy Corners, Nelson, and Lamb's Creek.

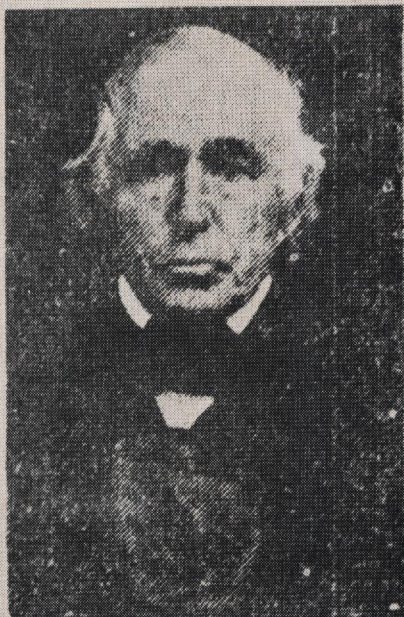
The Third United States Census reports there were eleven sawmills in Tioga County in 1810. In the next thirty years the number grew to 145. By the middle of the century every town in the county had its own mill. You could probably learn where the sawmill in your town was located.

Lumbering Becomes A Big Business

Lumbering became a big business in Tioga County. Almost every farmer spent his winter cutting trees to send down river. Many land owners built their own mills and earned their living lumbering. The coal companies operated large sawmills and were leaders in the business. The firm of Stowell and Dickinson ran a huge operation in the Pine Creek Valley. The wealthy land company of Phelps and Dodge moved in and took over a great deal of the county lumber business.

The king of lumbermen in Tioga County was Silas Billings of Knoxville. In the decades before the Civil War he became the leading lumberman in northern Pennsylvania. Mr. Billings purchased 5000 acres between the Cowanesque River and the New York line in 1822. Thirty years of hard work and shrewd investment made him a wealthy man. He owned a grist mill, an ashworks, a store, several sawmills, a

tannery, and timberland that stretched nearly across the county. Mr. Billings was nicknamed the "Lunger" because he once dove into the river to save a runaway raft. While producing his fortune and a family of eight children the hardy pioneer outlived three wives. His years of retirement were spent giving money and service to the community of Elmira. "Lungers" son, Silas X. Billings, took over his father's empire and continued as a leader in the lumber business for many years.



Silas Billings

Taken from a newspaper reproduction of an oil painting owned by the late H. I. Brewster of Knoxville.

An old newspaper print of Silas Billings

In today's world the old lumbering days seem very exciting. One can almost feel the thrill of sending giant trees crashing to the earth. Boys can understand the adventure of living in lumber camps deep in the forest. Although the work was hard and lonely, it could also be a life of independence and excitement.

The winter was spent getting the lumber ready for market. The logs were cut and skidded to the streams. Often the logs were formed into rafts. The large logs were usually floated singly until deeper water was reached. Sometimes the logs were sawed into boards and small boats were built for the trip. These would be torn apart and sold when they reached their destination. When the water got high in the spring, everything would be ready for the "run" down river.

The "run" was the highpoint of the lumberman's year. Imagine riding a raft down the flood waters of the Tioga or shooting the rapids in the Pine Creek gorge! When the dangerous headwater streams were passed, the raftsmen had to master the swift current of the icy Susquehanna. It was a long and exciting trip to the markets near Harrisburg and Baltimore.

The large rafts often held a shanty to house the crew. Most rafts, however, had only a hearth made from a foot of sand. A tiny fire was the only protection the raftsmen had from the cold and dampness.

The vessels traveled from dawn to dusk. Only in safe water under a full moon, would the men risk sailing at night. When darkness fell the rafts were tied up along the banks. To the twang of a banjo or the whine of a fiddle, the weary travelers dried out and rested for the next day's journey.

The "runs" were always dangerous. Sand bars, ice, rapids, or bridges could spill a raft at anytime. River pirates and scavengers often tried to steal the lumber. Outlaws were known to steal logs, saw off the brands, and sell them back to the original owner. Gangs would sometimes try to make the loggers pay for the right to use the river. When market was reached, rivalries between crews would often cause fights. The buyers used every trick to get the lumber at the lowest possible price. In 1872 the lumberman had a period of violence known as the "Sawdust War." The Governor had to call out troops to restore order.

All this danger did not dim the spirits of the lumberman. When he reached his destination, the lumber was sold and it was payday. After spending the winter in the woods he was ready for a celebration. Like many stories from the early days, the tales of these celebrations were probably exaggerated. The way the Tiogans told it, a northern tier lumberman could drink more whiskey, fell bigger trees, argue louder, and tell better lies than anyone else in the world. No "Wildcat," the stories go, ever lost a fight or a pretty girl. The walk home must have seemed very long after these exciting celebrations.



An old lumber Raft

A New Age of Lumbering. By the end of the Civil War the white pine in Tioga County was almost gone. Just as the pine began to run out, it was discovered that hemlock was also a good building material. The woodsman had considered hemlock a nuisance at first. Now he began his attack on this tree and a new age of lumbering began.

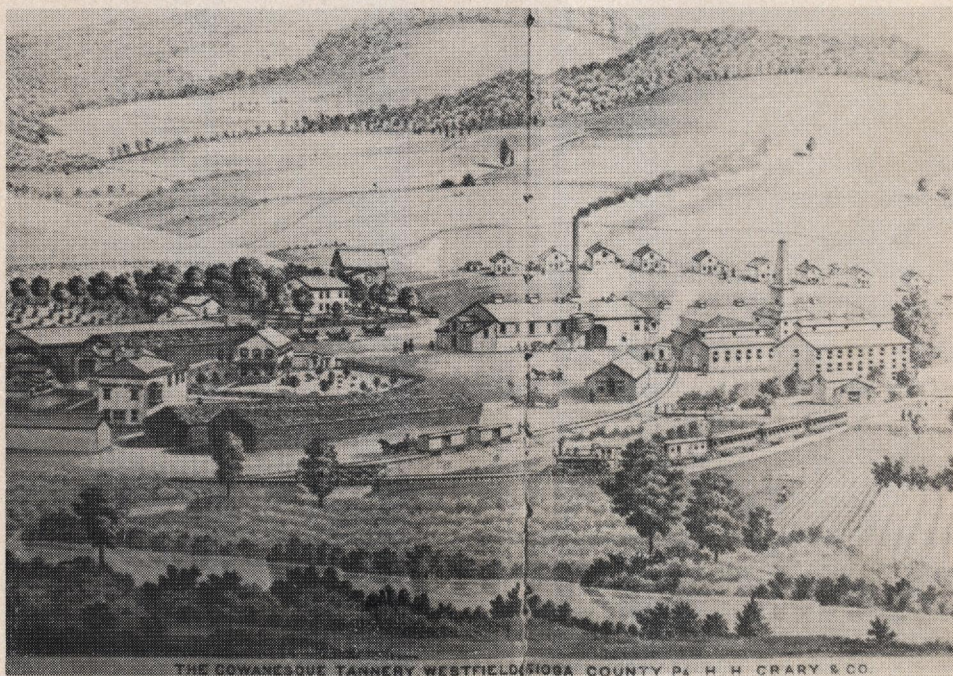
Many improvements came to lumbering. Mill shoots, dams, and steam sawmills made the business more efficient. Booms, which were harbors on the river, cut down the distance to market. Large companies began to take over much of the business. Man had become very good at destroying the forest.

The cutting of hemlock helped the growth of tanning in Tioga County. Hemlock bark contains tannic acid which is used to turn animal hides into leather.

Leather had been made in Tioga County from the time of the first settlers. Most of the pioneers cured a small number of hides for their own use. Soon tiny tanneries appeared. William Baker and Ebenezer Jackson had tanneries in Tioga Township in 1812. Joseph Fish of Wellsboro, Martin Bowen from near Knoxville, and Chandler Mann of Mansfield were other early tanners.

As the population grew, the need for leather increased. Hemlock bark was very easy to obtain. It wasn't long before tanning became a leading industry in Tioga County. At one time over three thousand Tiogans were working in the industry. Almost every town in the county had its own tannery.

Most of the tanneries in Tioga County were small and did not last very long. A few, like the Eberle tannery in Westfield and the plant in Elkland, were large tanneries that produced leather for many years. Other fairly large plants were located at Mansfield, Wellsboro, Blossburg, Leetonia, Tioga, Gaines, and Niles Valley. In 1883 the largest steam tannery in the world was built at Hoytville, near Morris. This giant factory was able to turn out 1000 hides a day!



The old Cowanesque tannery in Westfield

Toward the end of the Nineteenth Century, the big leather companies began to buy these tanneries and close them down. One by one the Tioga County tanneries began to disappear. Very few were able to compete with the big companies. Hemlock bark began to grow scarce. The small factories were forced to consolidate (join together) or sell out. In spite of these troubles, several Tioga villages were able to keep their tanneries. The browned fingers of the tannery hand and the strong smell of the liquor pools were common in Tioga County

well into the Twentieth Century. The communities of Elkland and Westfield are still important centers in the leather industry.

The End of the Great Forest

Even such a large forest could not last forever. As timber became scarce the price rose. This caused the lumberman to harvest it faster and faster. The tanners demanded more and more hemlock bark. The coal industry wanted mine props and the railroads needed ties. There were homes to build, furniture to make, and fields to clear. By 1900 the great forest had almost disappeared. The age of lumbering was over!

In a century over two billion board feet of lumber was taken from the Tioga forest. The white pine alone sold for nearly \$8,000,000. This wood did much to build the young nation. Homes, wagons, ships, tools, furniture, and many other necessary items were built from Tioga lumber. One author states that the lumber shipped out of northern tier Pennsylvania was probably used to rebuild the capital of the United States which the British burned in the War of 1812.

Much of the wood was wasted. Many trees were cut down just to get them out of the way. Fire was often used to clear tracts of land. Hemlock trunks, stripped of their bark, were left to rot on the forest floor. Properly harvested, this forest could have provided money for generation after generation. In places the beauty of the virgin forest could have been saved. If the people had not been so wasteful, the future of Tioga County might have been quite different.

Lumbering Helped the County Grow. Though he destroyed the forest, the lumberman brought progress to the northern tier. Railroads and highways were built to help develop the industry. People and money were attracted to the area. Farming was expanded. Tanneries and sawmills depended on the lumberman's products. In his century of destruction, the lumberman changed Tioga County so it would never be quite the same again.

It was not only an industry, but a way of life that passed with the lumberman. His ringing axe, powerful body, and exciting stories would no longer be part of life on the northern tier. The age of lumbering was over but the lumberman would not be forgotten.

Chapter VIII: The Good Old Days



THE COURT BUILDINGS AT WELLSBORO, TIOGA CO., PA.

Wellsboro public square in the last Century

The 1890's were the golden years in the history of Tioga County. The population reached its highest peak. Fields of grain and orchards loaded with fruit ripened where a virgin forest once stood. Where bear and panther had hunted, herds of cattle now grazed. Rails of steel criss-crossed the county and dusty highways followed the old Seneca trails in and out of the hills. Coal and lumber from the county were being shipped throughout the East. The towns were "bursting at the seams." Before the century would end, Tioga County would produce a governor! The fairs, the picnics, the sporting events, and the parlor games of the day made the hard work seem easier. To many it seemed life could never be better. These were the good old days.

The People. The population of Tioga county showed a steady increase from the earliest day. The settlers from the North and East gave the area a New England "flavor." The Williamson road attracted farmers from the south and from central Pennsylvania. Mining, lumbering, and tanning brought the laborer. By 1890, over 50,000 people lived in the Land of Tioga. The census taker was not likely to count that many Tiogans again for at least one hundred years!

Most of the earlier settlers were Protestants. Their ancestors had come from Western Europe. The pioneers spoke or soon learned English and they thought of themselves as 100% American. Today we know that many different types of people are 100% American. Your teacher can explain in what ways the culture of this area is still a Western European, Protestant culture.

A number of Catholics did come to Tioga County. Many were Irish or Italians who came to work on the railroads or in the tanneries. Catholics from Eastern Europe, mostly Polish, settled in the mining towns. Many could not speak English and older residents looked on them with suspicion. Before long, however, they became Americanized. Today their descendents are some of the county's leading citizens.

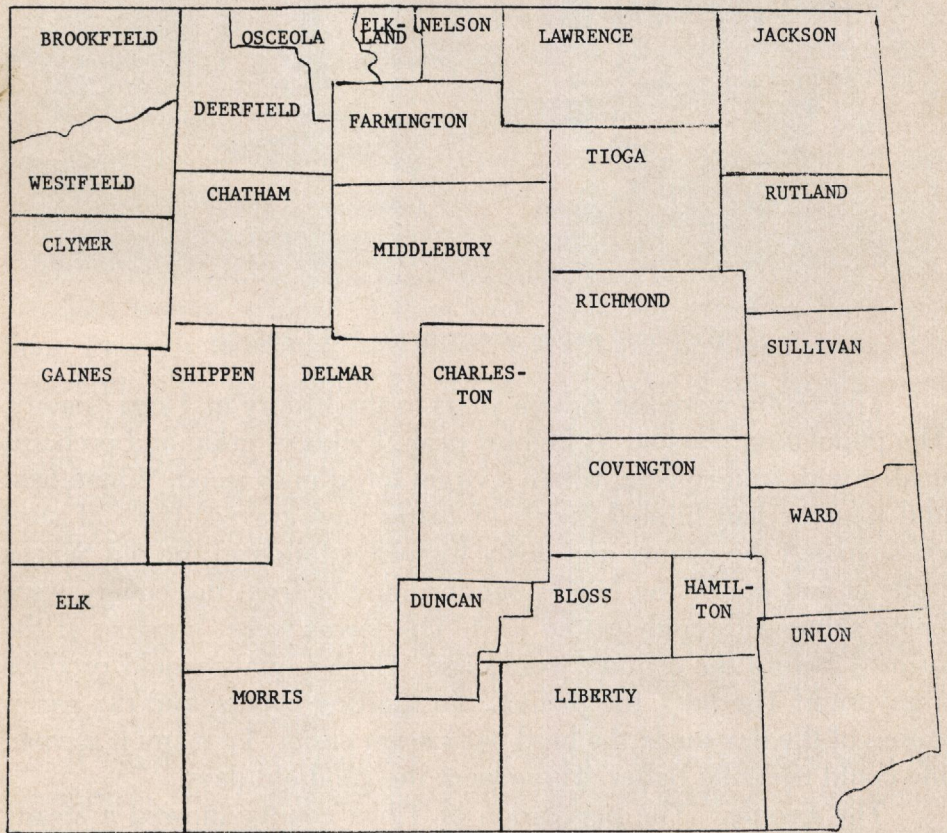


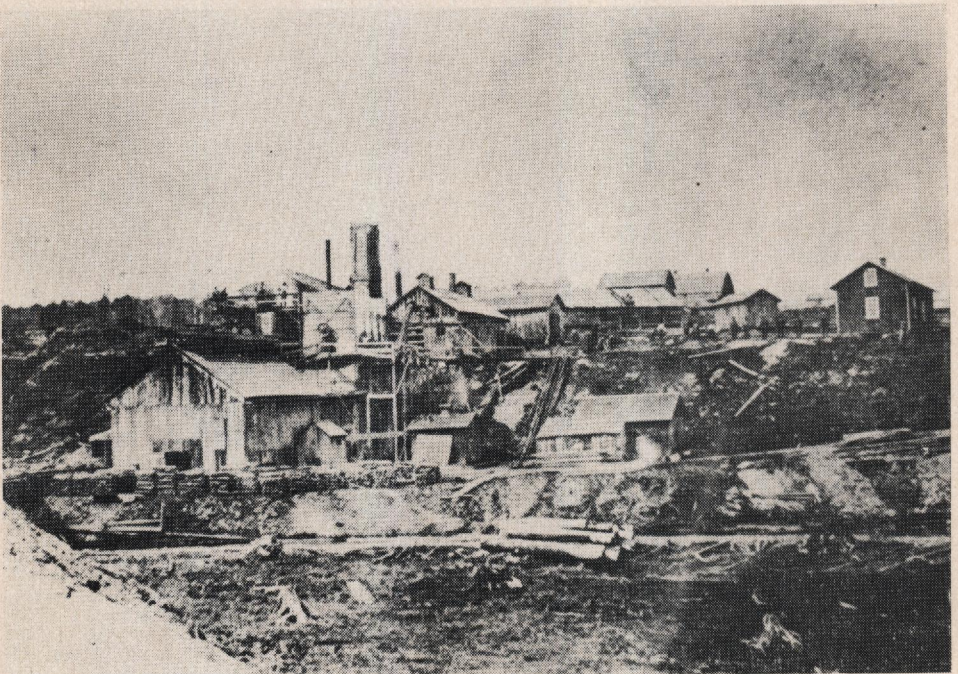
Figure 12.
Townships of Tioga County

Politics. Most people in Tioga County in the 1890's were Republicans. The Democratic Party had been strong here before the Civil War. When the slavery crisis turned politics upside down, the

Republican Party was born. Tiogans adopted the new party as their very own. The first year the party was formed the Democrat, James Buchanan, got very few Tioga votes in the presidential election. And James Buchanan was from Pennsylvania! Tioga voters gave a higher percentage of votes to Republican Abraham Lincoln than any other county in Pennsylvania. At one stage ninety percent of the voters in the county were Republicans! In 1852, a Democrat, Franklin Pierce, got more votes in Tioga County than his opponent. The next Democrat to carry the county in a presidential election was Lyndon Johnson, 112 years later!

Industry and Agriculture

The main reason the population of Tioga County reached a peak during these years was the development of industry and agriculture. In 1890 coal mining employed over two thousand men. By 1961 that number would drop to eighty-six. The tanning industry provided work for over 2100 people. Today less than a thousand work at Tioga's two tanneries. Iron was produced at Mansfield. Glass works operated in Wellsboro and Covington. Lumbering was still an important industry. Foundries, furniture works, sawmills, toy plants, railroad shops, cheese



The Mansfield iron works on the west side of the Tioga River

factories, and gas wells are only a few of the industries operating here in the nineties.

Tioga farms were also producing more and more. Over 4500 farms produced products worth a million dollars in 1890. Buckwheat, Indian corn, oats, and poultry were important farm products. The farmer harvested maple syrup, honey, and nuts as well as a valuable fruit crop. Tobacco brought thousands of dollars to local farmers. Booming cheese factories and homemade butter made Tioga one of the leading dairy counties in the state.

The cheese factory was remarkable as we look back on it. Even tiny towns like Cherry Flats, Round Top, Keeneyville, Nauvoo, and West Farmington had factories. Hundreds of Tiogans made their living from the product. The plants became very important to the economy of the area. Before long, however, consolidation would occur and a colorful part of Tioga life would be swept away.

Transportation. In these days before the automobile most people traveled by rail. The morning train from Blossburg to Elmira was often crowded with passengers from the Tioga valley. To visit Williamsport people from Wellsboro would take the long ride down the Pine Creek railroad through the Grand Canyon and Jersey Shore. Think of a person traveling from Antrim to Blossburg by train. He would have to



A hay ride through Mansfield in the good old Days

go by way of Wellsboro and Tioga and change trains at least once!

Roads. People who chose to travel by wagon or coach had to fight dirt roads. Tioga county roads were the dustiest in "all creation or New York State." They were muddy in the spring and filled with ruts all year. Old residents point out that travel was easiest in the winter when sleighs could be used. Lumber wagons, farmers' carts, mounted horsemen, and stage coaches gave these highways hard use. To children who have learned about stage coaches on television, it might seem odd that in 1890 a person could take the stage from Wellsboro to Mansfield. The trip would cost a few cents and take nearly two hours.

The people tried hard to keep their roads in good repair. Farmers often "worked out their taxes" on the highways. Without a good surfacing material, the roads did not improve very much. In 1897, Wellsboro's streets were still unpaved!

The Plank Road. One attempt was made to build a hard surfaced highway from Wellsboro to Tioga in the 1850's. A group made a study of the best surfacing materials. After careful planning the material for the road was selected. The Wellsboro-Tioga turnpike was to be built of wood! The Plank Road, as it became known, was an expensive experiment. Of course, the wood rotted before long and the road had to be turned into a gravel highway. For awhile, however, the Plank Road was the most modern highway on the northern tier.

Life in the Nineties

Though people look back on these days as the gay nineties, the outstanding fact of life was hard work. Women not only had to cook on coal or wood stoves, they had to tend the fires as well. After water was pumped by hand from a well, it was heated on the kitchen stove and the washing was done on a scrub board. Irons were heated on the stove, kerosene lamps needed tending, kindling chopped, and the work went on and on. Men, whether they worked in the fields, the forests or the mines, had to do most of their work with muscle power. The dawn to dusk workday left most men exhausted.

The children had to help with many household and farm chores. Tending the animals was often a youngster's big job. Milking seemed to be the most tiresome work. Many farm children learned the old trick of leaving a little milk in the cow each day. This would soon "dry up" the cow and cut down the work. In spite of the little tricks, hard work was the order of the day. The gay nineties were not really that gay.



This Tioga County Miss helped on the Farm

Most comforts we have today were missing in the nineties. Central heating was rare. Many a Tioga farmboy can remember getting out of bed when a nearby glass of water had frozen solid. The wonders of modern medicine were not available either. Home remedies had not yet been replaced by pills and shots. Grandmother thought her medicine was not any good unless it tasted as bad as possible. Toothaches were deadened by foul tasting drugs and a chest cold was usually greased with kerosene and lard! The Cottage State Hospital built in Blossburg in 1890 was a step forward for the people of the county.

Children today would not find the clothing of the era very comfortable. Females wore long dresses with many petticoats. Boys put up with red flannel "long johns" under knee britches and long socks. A lad's first pair of long pants meant he had become a man.

In the summer children went barefooted. One old timer told how the boys would scheme when they had to wear shoes to church. They would carry their shoes until they got in sight of the church then slip shoes and socks on over their dusty feet.

The real rage in the 1890's was the bicycle. Your great-grandparents raced up and down the streets of Blossburg or Stoney Fork or Morris "faster than a chicken thief running from the sheriff." Bicycle

tours became very popular. A bicycle race track was built at Elkland and many exciting contests were held. Young men took their lady friends for long rides across the Tioga countryside on a bicycle-built-for-two. Perhaps you know the song, "Daisey," which tells about courting in those days.



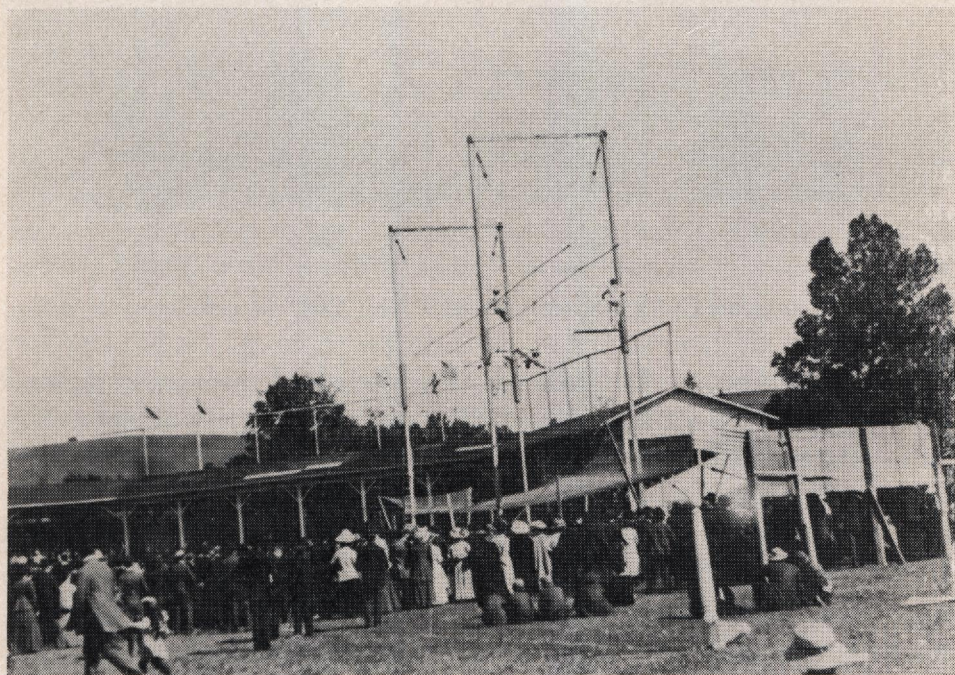
This Girl seems very Proud of her "New" Bicycle

Entertainment. Children who are used to television, movies, and roller coasters, might have found life rather dull in the nineties. The entertainment had to be provided by the people themselves. Though they worked hard, it seems the Tiogans of that day found time to have fun. Almost every edition of the **Wellsboro Agitator** tells about a Church social, a husking bee, a picnic or reunion, a horse show, or some other form of entertainment. Every Friday evening during the summer, concerts were held on the green in Wellsboro. The larger towns had opera houses. Touring shows would be seen several times a year. Auctions were also important social events. One teacher reported that she once had to close school because so many of her pupils went to a nearby auction! Grange parties and fire hall dances livened up the winter time. An exciting evening at home meant pulling taffy, popping popcorn, or gazing at a stereoscope.

The Fourth of July was the big holiday in Tioga County. Parades, speeches, races, fireworks, turkey shoots, square dances, and even the circus greeted Independence Day. Baseball became popular and well-attended contests livened up the celebration. The people of Tioga County still have a "big time" on the Fourth of July.

Another important social event at the time was the fair. This was the chance for the farmer to show off his products. His wife could display her canned and baked goods. All sorts of games and contests were also part of the fair.

The two largest fairs developed at Mansfield and Westfield. At Westfield the attractive fair ground covered many acres and included a race track. Today the beautiful Cowanesque Valley Junior and Senior High School stands on the site of the old fair grounds. The annual fair at Mansfield's Smythe Park attracted people from a wide area. Special trains were put in service to carry folks to and from this fair. Even the famous Pawnee Bill Wild West show made an appearance here!



A Big Day at the Mansfield Fair

By 1890 the log cabin had disappeared. **The History of Tioga County** tells us that brick and frame houses, neat and well tended, replaced the early cabins. Mr. Meginness points out that many residents had built stately homes with large, shaded lawns. The large Victorian

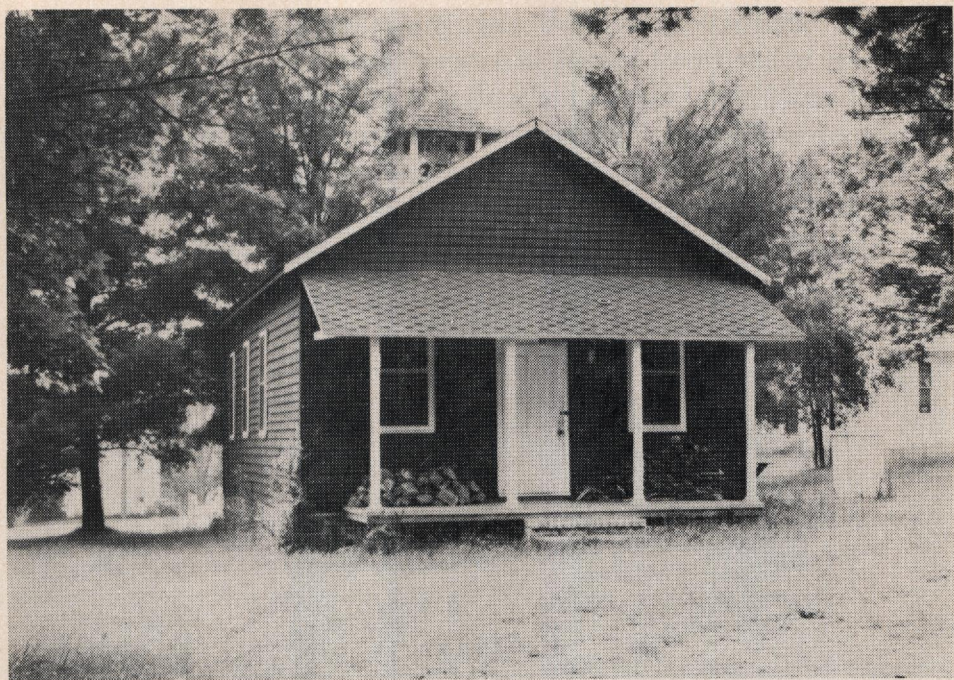
buildings with fancy trim and many gables became popular. These are still some of the finest homes in Tioga County. What the old historian did not point out, however, was that many people lived in company houses owned by the mining companies or tanneries. These homes were usually without a cellar or a bathroom. They all looked alike and were lined up like soldiers in straight rows. In many, old timers say, the wind could be heard whistling through the cracks in the walls.



Many gracious old houses are still fine homes

There is a good chance you are sitting in a modern beautiful school as you read this book. Your room is warm and well lighted. New blackboards, attractive books, and comfortable desks are all around you. How different were the schools in the 1890's! Some of the larger towns had consolidated schools but this was the day of the little red schoolhouse. Even though it usually was not red, it certainly was little. There were over 350 schools in the county in 1890. Many of these were one-room schools where all eight grades were taught in the same room. The town of Westfield had five different schools. Richmond Township, which has no schools today, once had seventeen.

These tiny centers of learning were kept warm by a pot bellied stove located near the middle of the room. Fires were attended by the teacher and the older boys. In the winter time, one gentleman reported, his teacher would let the well behaved children sit near the stove while the mischief makers shivered off in the corners.



This one room school is still standing in the Southern Tioga School District

The furnishings were often very poor. Homemade desks were used for many years. In one case a boy had to use a desk on which his father had carved initials years before. The Tioga County School Superintendent reported in 1880 that the county schools should get rid of their homemade furniture. In 1890 the new Superintendent reported that little had been done.

The teachers were often not well trained. Many had only a high school education. The average pay for a teacher in 1890 was thirty-three dollars a month. This was an improvement over earlier years, however, when teachers were paid much less and were "boarded around." One teacher in the 1830's was paid three dollars a week and had to find her own room, board, and firewood.

Children in the nineties loved to pull pranks on their teachers. One favorite was to sprinkle flour on the porch and cause it to be tracked all over the school. One story tells about a boy tricking his teacher into washing her feet in maple syrup! Most of the time, however, children were hard at work on the three R's, "readin', 'ritin, and 'rithmetic."

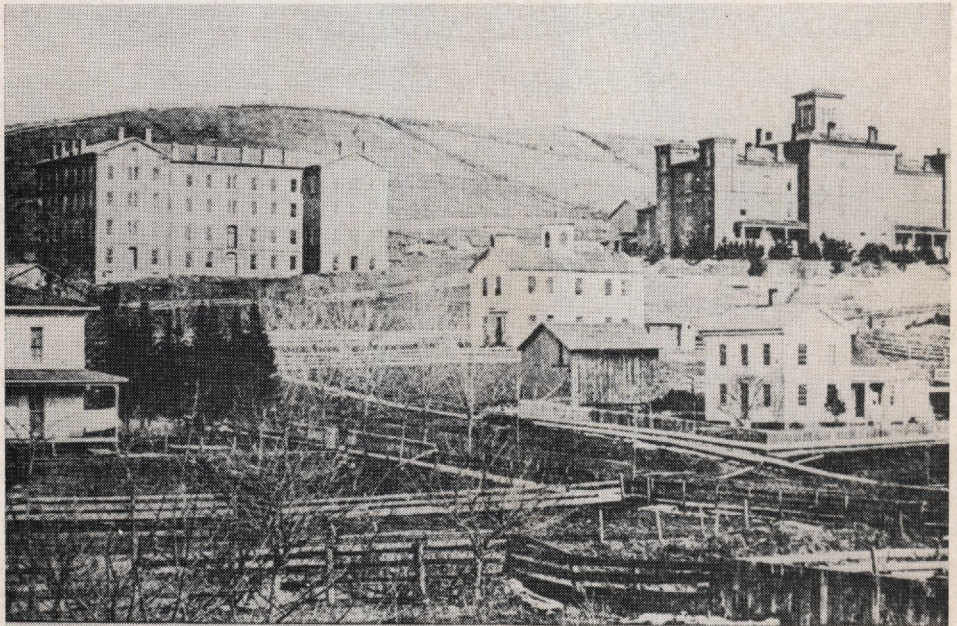
By the nineties most towns had their own high schools. In this day of large consolidated schools it seems strange to think of Arnot

High School or Gaines High School or good old Osceola High! Not many students attended high school. Many children quit school to go to work before they graduated from the eighth grade.

Long before high schools became popular, the people of Tioga County had been interested in advanced education. A school for higher education was established in Wellsboro in 1817. This type of school was called an academy. For nearly sixty years subjects such as rhetoric, grammar, and algebra were taught at the Wellsboro Academy. Many of the area's teachers, ministers, lawyers, and political leaders were schooled at the academy. An early principal, Henry Barnard, became one of America's most famous educators. Others went on to fame in other fields. In 1870 the old academy was taken over by the public schools.

The people of Tioga County have had many different kinds of schools. Business colleges and orphan schools, girls schools, lyceums, and academies all had their day. The most lasting venture was the college that grew up in Mansfield.

Colonel Joseph Hoard receives credit for the idea of a classical seminary at Mansfield. In 1854, he and Dr. Joseph Morris persuaded the Methodist council to back the idea. One hundred five students opened the school in January of 1857. In April of the same year it burned to the ground! The backers and the people of Mansfield spent



MANSFIELD NORMAL, BOROUGH SCHOOL AT CENTER OF PICTURE IN THE 1880's

two years trying to rebuild the school. After a great deal of trouble the institution was reopened in 1859. This time only thirty students attended.

In 1862, at the urging of S. B. Elliot, the State Legislature made the Mansfield Seminary a State Normal School. Money was still very scarce. John Magee stepped in and provided the money to make the institution sound. By 1900 the Mansfield Normal was a thriving school. The buildings were worth more than \$300,000. Mansfield teachers gained much respect for the school and graduates made names in many professions. One became Governor of the State!

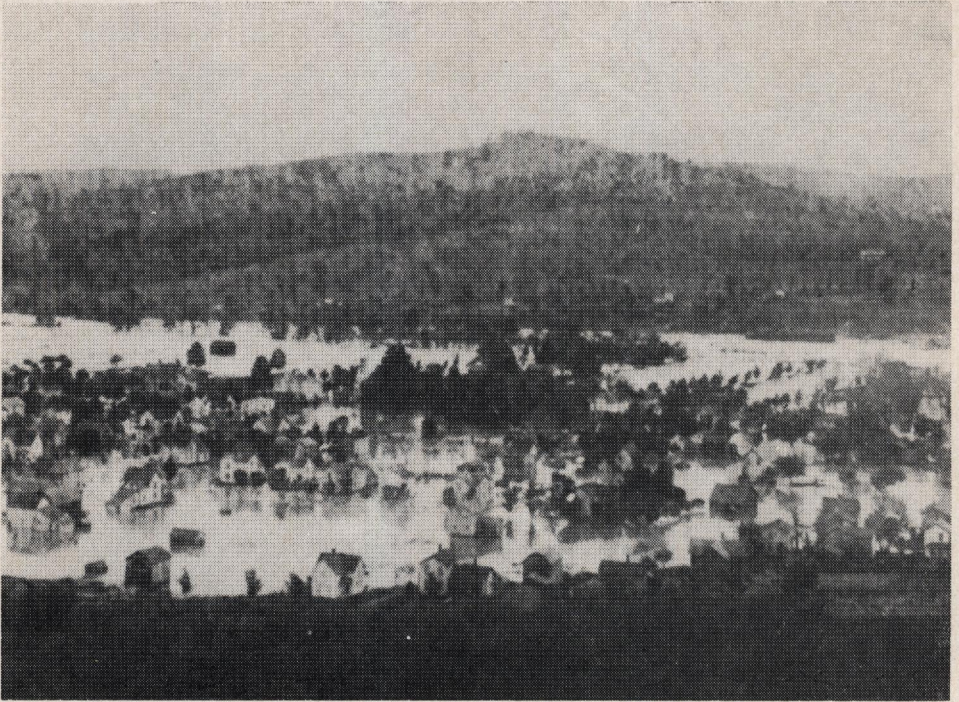
Governor Stone. William A. Stone was born in Delmar Township in 1846. At the age of seventeen he joined the Union Army. By the end of the Civil War he had grown to a height of six feet, four inches and had become a second lieutenant.

Professor Fordyce Allen helped "Will" scrape up enough money to attend Mansfield Normal. After graduating with highest honors he taught at the Wellsboro Academy for two years. While there, he read law and soon became a lawyer. After serving as a clerk in the House of Representatives in Harrisburg and as District Attorney of Tioga county, he moved to the Pittsburgh area. He served three terms in Congress from that district. In 1898 he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania.

Tiogans Look Ahead

Could the people of Tioga County be blamed if they felt this was a great place to live? Progress had come to their county. The wilderness had been conquered. Their farms and mines and factories were prospering. A Tiogan sat in the Governor's mansion. Their nation had become one of the great countries on earth. The new century would surely be prosperous and happy.

Chapter IX: Problems of the Twentieth Century



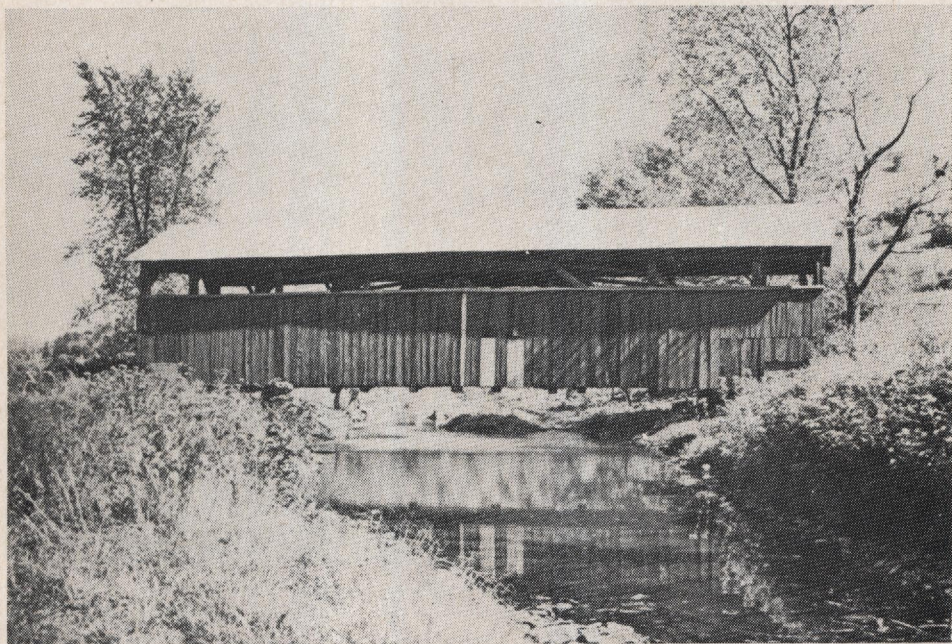
This old photo shows Mansfield during the 1889 Flood

The people of Tioga county greeted the Twentieth Century with enthusiasm. It is not hard to see why. The area had come a long way in a hundred years. If the industry and agriculture and population would continue to expand, Tioga County would be a leader in Pennsylvania commerce by 1950.

Years of Change

This expansion never came. With the forest laid waste, the lumberman moved on. Ugliness and floods were left. Mining would require fewer and fewer men. The booming coal towns would become quiet villages or ghost towns. Scores of small tanneries and cheese factories would have to close their doors. Low prices and competition hurt Tioga agriculture. Railroads cut down their service. Machines would replace many miners, farmers, and laborers. By 1930 over 20,000 people would flee the Land of Tioga.

As industry and population dwindled, many other changes swept over Tioga county. The "horseless carriage" put the people on wheels. This "infernal machine," as horse lovers called it, would be followed by paved roads. Electricity would give Tiogans comfort and convenience they had never dreamed possible. Radio came to the valleys of the Tioga and Cowanesque. Movies would change ideas about fashion, entertainment, and the world in general. These new developments would bring about a new way of life.



This covered bridge is still standing

The Automobile. The motor car came to Tioga county around the turn of the century. It was 1903 when the people of Knoxville were surprised to see an Oldsmobile coming down the main street. About the same time a Stanley Steamer was puffing around Mansfield. There were probably cars here sooner but there could not have been very many. As late as 1912 a resident called a famous make of car a CA DILL' IC. Before long gas pumps and garages were replacing hitching posts and watering troughs. When adventurers began reaching speeds of twenty five miles per hour, speed limit signs came in to use.

Some did not accept the automobile. Doctors wondered whether motoring would be unhealthy. Many mothers felt it was unlady like for their daughters to go about in such contraptions. Most people felt

the “old gray mare” was more reliable. “Nobody has to crank a horse,” scoffers would point out. Breaking down and getting stuck were common problems to the automobile. Early cars often had to back up hills so gas would flow to the engine. Cars driven by steam and electricity were tried. It took a long time before the comfortable, powerful automobile you know was developed.

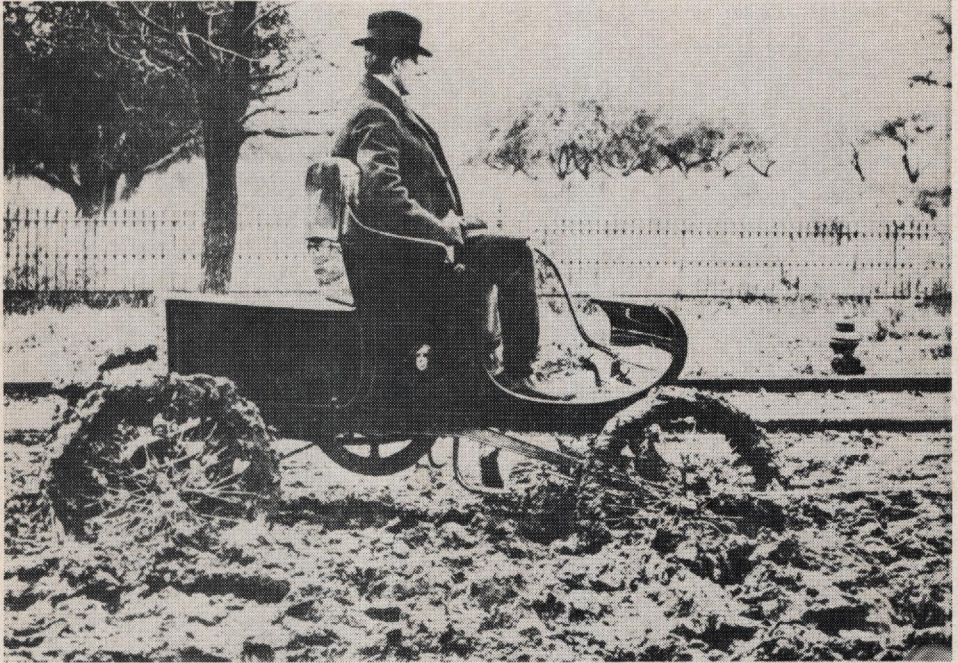


A rainy picnic in the family flivver

Cars were a blessing to people who lived in rural areas. Families that could once go to town only on Saturday night, could now go every day. Elmira and Williamsport trips no longer required a long train ride. The doctor could get to the country and the farm boy could ride a bus to the graded school in town. Sunday drives became a treat for many families. Even courting would move from the parlor to the Model T Ford.

The biggest problem to the early motorist was the highways. The roads of the time were “mule belly deep” in dust and mud. Even the horse and buggy found them difficult. The auto found them almost impossible.

Some boro streets were paved soon after 1900. One of the county's early macadam roads ran from the Cowanesque Valley through the Troup's Creek Valley to New York State. Part of the Williamson Road was paved before 1912. In most places, however, roads were not paved until after World War I.



The old roads were not too good

What we call Route Six and Route Fifteen were the first highways paved through the county. Soon Mansfield could boast of the only drive-in gas station between Buffalo and Washington. The back roads became "Pinchot Roads" in the 1930's. Governor Pinchot "got the farmers out of the mud" by building narrow, black top trails throughout the rural areas. Many of these roads are still in use.

Electricity. Electricity changed county life even more than the automobile. Lights meant convenience and safety. Electric power would take over such jobs as milking, refrigeration, sweeping, ironing, fencing animals, cooking, and sewing. Two children of the electric family, the radio and the telephone, brought great changes to everyday living.

The Wellsboro Opera House had lights as early as 1890. It wasn't until near the end of the century, however, that electric companies became very important. The **Wellsboro Agitator** reports the county seat renewed its lighting contract in 1900. Mansfield turned the street

lights on Christmas Eve, 1902. Other villages followed. Gas lights were popular in some towns and were not replaced by electricity for many years.

Most rural areas did not receive this power. The electric companies could not afford to string wire to remote houses and farms. Farm morale was very low at this time. All of Tioga county's farm areas had a drop in population between 1900 and 1930. The Rural Electrification program finally got the farmer "out of the dark" in the 1930's. Farm living has been much more comfortable since that time.

The Telephone. The telephone was a great addition to the American household. It brought security. The doctor, the fireman, the



An early wall phone

constable, or the handyman was only as far away as the nearest phone. A twist of the hand crank, a few words to Central, and almost anyone in town could be reached. All messages were not emergencies or business, however. Even today's teenagers would be surprised by the gossip that kept the party line "hot" all day long.

The railroad depots had the first telephones in the county. If you had serious business, you could use the phone at the Fall Brook Station as early as 1891. In 1895 a line connected the Hotel Allen in Mansfield with Wellsboro. It wasn't until after 1900, however, that the Citizen's Mutual Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Liberty and Roaring Branch Telephone Company, and the Cowanesque Telephone Company got much business. Within ten years phone companies such as the Delmar-Hoytville, Millerton and Mixtown, and the Elk Run Association were in operation. Later the Commonwealth Telephone Company would buy up many of these businesses and service most of the county.

The Radio. The radio was another invention that changed American life. The first real broadcast was made from KDKA in Pittsburgh in 1920. Within a few years crystal sets were used in Tioga County. These sets required earphones. Using their bedsprings as an aerial, a few privileged Tiogans could hear a Jack Dempsey fight, an address by President Coolidge, or music from the General Electric station at Schenectady.



Listening to an early radio

Before long almost every home had a radio. With the radio and the motion picture, people from Elkland or Covington or Roaring Branch received the same entertainment as the people of New York or Philadelphia. Products and people known in the cities could now be familiar to country folks. The "Country Rube" and the "City Slicker" would move closer together. A new culture would flow across the land.

Science was not the only force affecting the way people lived. Two world wars and a depression would bring about great changes. These events would alter the way Americans felt about many things.

The Great Depression

The most serious crisis was the Great Depression. In 1929 the nation had a financial collapse. Factories closed. Many banks shut down. Commerce was almost at a standstill. The farmer could not sell his produce and the laborer could not find work. For the first time in our history, the American system broke down completely.

Tioga County citizens did not suffer as much as people in the cities. Tiogans could always grow enough to eat. Mining and tanning did not stop entirely. A gas boom near Sabinsville helped out a great deal. However, times were hard. Several area banks had difficulty operating. Business slowed to a walk. Farm income fell sharply. By 1936 over 3600 Tiogans had received some form of relief. It took a World War to pull business out of this slump.

So great was the suffering the American Government stepped in to help. The W.P.A., the P.W.A., and other government agencies put hundreds to work in Tioga County. Seven schools were built. Over \$200,000 of federal money was put into highway construction. Library books were cleaned and repaired. Parks and dams were built. The government even put twenty-five Tioga County women to work on sewing projects!

One of the most colorful programs was the C.C.C. The Civilian Conservation Corps took young men from areas that were hit hard by the depression. These men were sent to camps in forested regions. The camps were run much like military bases. The men did conservation work in the woods.

In Tioga County, C.C.C. camps were located at Darling Run, Leetonia, Dixie Run, and Elk Run. The corps did a lot of good in this area. Erosion dams were built. Forest fires were contained. Trees were planted. Most of the roads in the Grand Canyon area were built. Some of the men married local girls and settled here. It is not hard, even now, to find a solid citizen who came here as a "woodpecker."



A nearby C.C.C. camp

Still Republican

All these programs poured a great deal of federal money into Tioga County. They did make life a little easier. It did not seem to make Tiogans love President Roosevelt, however. In the 1936 election this popular leader carried every state in the union except Vermont and Maine. In Tioga County he lost in every boro and every township!

Several local Republicans made big names in the party. William Stone, of course, had become Governor. Earlier John I. Mitchell of Tioga Township had become a United States Senator. During depression years Mason Owlett of Wellsboro became a party leader for the State of Pennsylvania. It was not, however, only Republicans who got ahead. William B. Wilson was a miner from Blossburg. He helped organize unions around the state. He became so popular he was elected to Congress. In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson named him the first Secretary of Labor in our country's history.



William B. Wilson

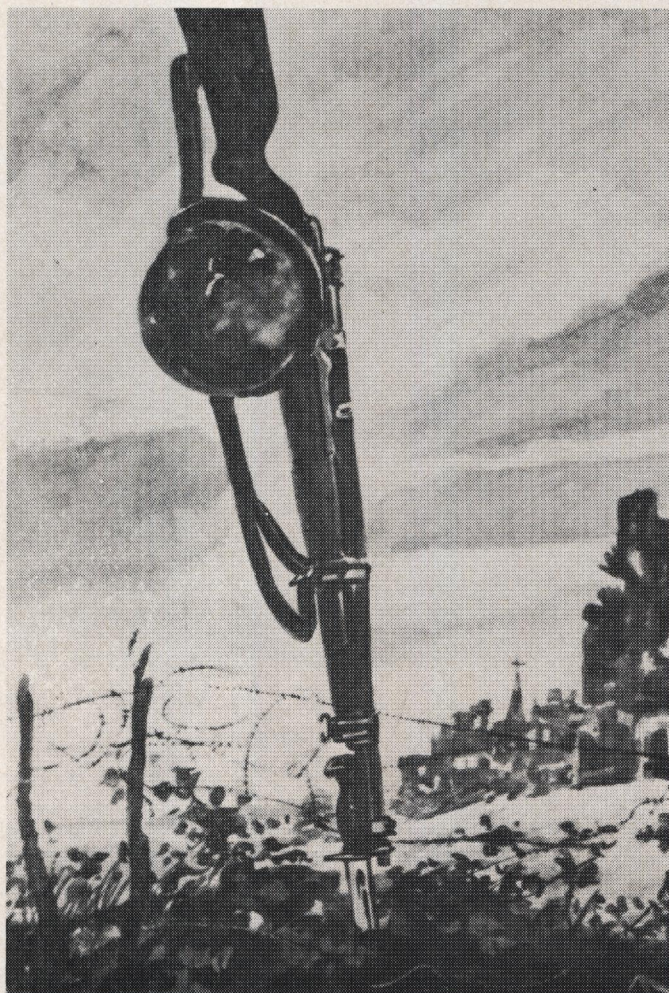
The Wars

The depression would leave scars on the nation for a long time. It was the wars of the Twentieth Century that would be remembered, however. Two World Wars were fought. Things would never be quite the same again.

The people of Tioga County were very enthusiastic about World War I. They were shocked by German submarine warfare. When the Germans killed women and children in Belgium, Tiogans grew even angrier. When President Wilson called for war, the people of Tioga County were right behind him. The students at Mansfield Normal carried a dummy dressed like the German Kaiser down town in a rough

box. Songs like "Over There" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy" became very popular. German-Americans lost life-long friends. Support for the war was noisy and enthusiastic across the northern tier.

Enlistment fever swept the county. Before Johnny came marching home again over a thousand of Tioga County's finest young men would be in uniform. Many would not return home. Scores were wounded or effected by poison gas. For years Tioga school children would spend a moment of silence on Armistice Day to honor the men who died in this conflict.



A World at War

The end of the war brought exciting celebrations. In the Cowanesque Valley three hundred cars had a spur-of-the-moment parade. The officers of the Mansfield Normal Student Training Corps were

thrown, fully clothed, into the showers. When bonfires burned all night at Knoxville, people could not understand where all the fuel was coming from. The next morning it was discovered many privies were missing!

World War II. In 1941 America learned the meaning of total war. Many of your parents or grandparents could tell you what they were doing that Sunday afternoon when they heard about Pearl Harbor. This time there was not much enthusiasm. There were few parades and no horseplay. War songs never became very popular. The people knew World War II would be a long and bitter struggle.

Over 2500 men and women from Tioga County entered the service before the end of the war. They were in all branches of the armed forces. Tiogans fought in battles all over the world. They commanded



World War II

battleships or crouched in foxholes. Some flew over Germany while others struggled on South Sea Islands. Many won medals. Others rose to positions of authority. As they had in the past, Tioga servicemen brought honor to their homeland.

Total war is fought at home as well as on the battlefield. Tioga farms and factories gave their best to the war effort. Shoes, meat, gasoline, and sugar were rationed. Older men served as air raid wardens. Over \$2,000,000 worth of war bonds were sold in the county. Victory gardens sprung up in almost every yard. Even the cannon at Mansfield State Teachers College went to war. It was melted down as scrap metal.

One problem caused by the war was the manpower shortage. Women had to leave their homes to work in the factories or fields. Female workers helped Tioga factories fill two million dollars worth of war orders in 1945. In one term only eight men were enrolled at Mansfield College. When a soldier came home on furlough he had very little trouble getting a date!

Even children helped in the war effort. Boy scouts collected paper and scrap metal. Many air raid drills were held. Messenger boys, proudly wearing their arm bands, assisted the wardens. Though real danger was far away, these boys were sure German planes would roar over Armenia Mountain at any minute.



Children collect scrap to help war Effort

County children did a good job collecting tin cans. These were melted down so the metal could be used again. One father reported he wore out every can opener in the neighborhood taking lids off cans his children had collected. Youngsters sent their used toys overseas and carried their nickels to the post office to buy war stamps. Many farm chores were done by Tioga boys who were filling in for big brother. It was relief, not glee, that greeted the end of this great struggle.

Tioga County Looks Ahead

All these events gave birth to a new America. The United States had become a land of mighty cities, huge factories, and giant corporations. What would happen to rural areas like Tioga County? Pessimists were sure our industry would leave and the population would shrink even more. Even the optimist was unsure of the future. By the time the second half of the century arrived, the picture became clear. Tioga County would move ahead again.

Chapter X: Tioga County Today and Tomorrow



Looking down the Tioga valley from Blossburg

The purpose of this book is to show young people how Tioga County became what it is today. Progress was part of this story. So was decline. The first settlers sought to till the land. Later men tried to build industry. At times national events overshadowed the problems of everyday life. Just as glaciers and erosion shaped the land, Tiogans were molded by these events. People are a product of their history.

The area did not become a great industrial region. We have no large cities, skyscrapers, or huge factories. Tioga County became part of rural, small town America.

Tioga County has not received all the rewards of modern life. Great wealth, super highways, and splendid shopping centers are not found here. However, the county does not have the serious problems found in the population centers. Air pollution, overcrowding, and slums are things Tiogans only read about in the paper. Most Tiogans feel we have come out ahead.

Agriculture is still the leading industry. Over 1400 Tiogans earn their living farming. Almost all the farms are engaged in the dairy business in some way. In the towns dairy products such as cheese, condensed milk, butter, and ice cream are processed. Others deliver or sell these products. Even the serious drought of the early 1960's did no permanent damage to the business. The raising of beef cattle has become important in recent years. However, the dairy industry is the foundation of Tioga County agriculture.

Tanning is still a leading industry. The tanneries at Elkland and Westfield employ nearly eight hundred people. The plants today are much more mechanized than the old tanneries. The hides and tanning chemicals are all imported.

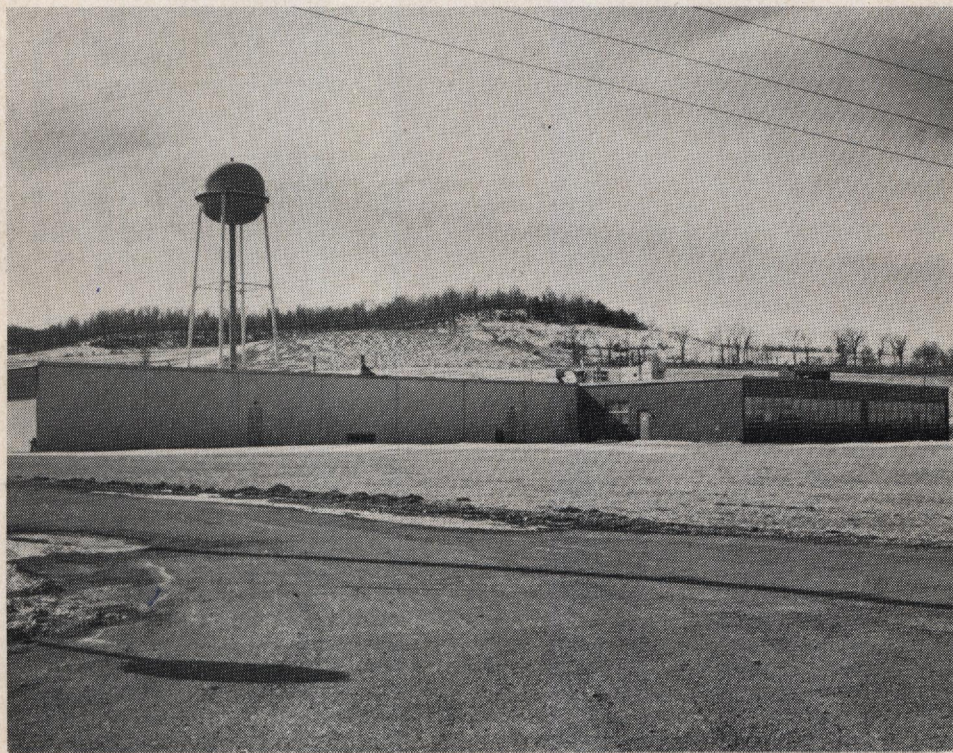


Strip mining near Blossburg

Strip mining has taken over the coal business in the area. By the end of World War I, most of the best veins were pretty well worked

out. During the Second World War stripping was begun. This made it possible to mine the smaller veins of coal. Strip mining does not employ as many men; however, it does produce coal. In 1964, 386,000 tons were removed from the Blossburg coal field. The Jones and Brague Mining Company was the largest producer.

Small industries are located throughout the area. The Corning Glass Works at Wellsboro employs over 500. Metal works operate in Covington, Blossburg, Westfield, and Wellsboro. Milk processing plants, creameries, bakeries, and machine shops provide steady work for a growing population.

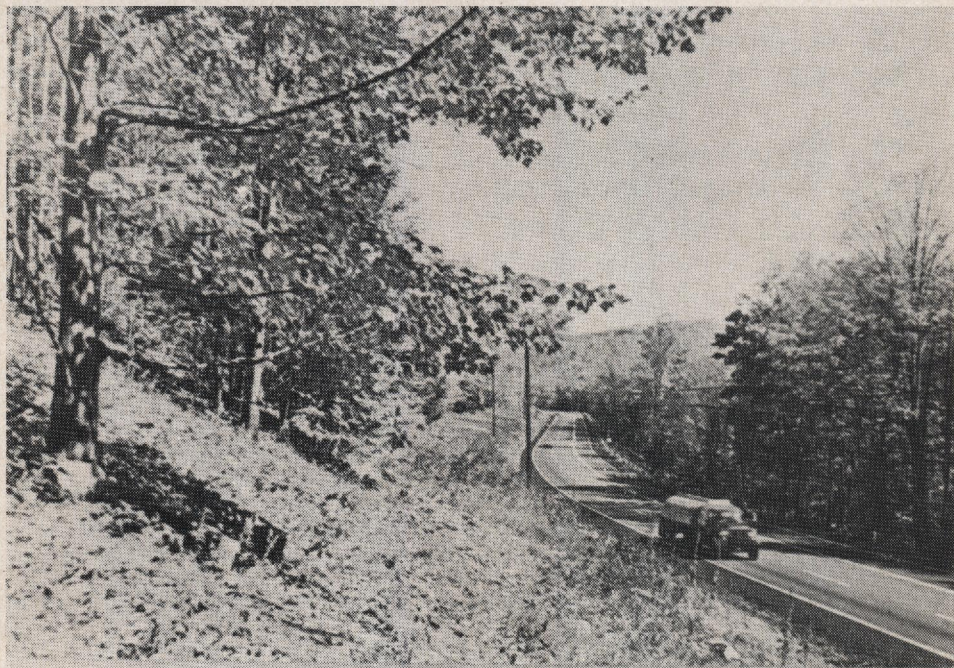


A new factory near Wellsboro

Many Tiogans earn a living in the field of transportation. Trucking firms in Wellsboro and Richmond Township are kept very busy. Gas stations, motels, and restaurants service the traveler. Garages, car dealers, truck drivers, and insurance men live off an industry that did not exist at the turn of the century.

The transportation system has not fared well over the years. Even our main roads are not modern highways. There is not one mile of four lane highway in Tioga County! One of the chief highways, Route Six,

has dangerous curves and hills. It is no longer one of Pennsylvania's most traveled highways. Some residents want this old Roosevelt Trail to remain a two lane highway for slow driving tourists who wish to view our scenery. An important Pennsylvania planning committee feels it should become a four lane expressway.



A Tioga County highway today

The old Williamson Road, now Route 15, remains a major north-south highway. Despite its poor condition, trucks pound up and down the road night and day. In the summer, Route 15, is choked with tourists heading for Niagara Falls, the Finger Lakes, and Washington, D. C. Presently there is talk about an Appalachian Highway that will run almost parallel to Route 15. Another plan is to widen the present road into a four lane, limited access thruway. The development of highways is very important to the future of the area.

The county has moved ahead in the field of communication. WNBTV Radio, the voice of Tioga County, broadcasts from Wellsboro. Cable television is piped into all parts of the county. The Commonwealth Telephone Company will soon have 10,000 phones in service here. The newspaper business, however, has slipped. Today only four weekly papers are printed in the county. The people rely on the Elmira, Corning, and Williamsport papers for their daily news.

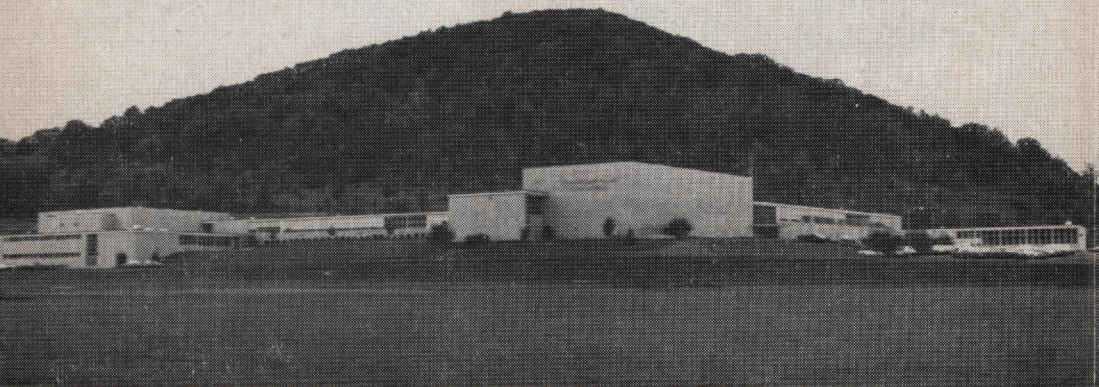
The number of professional people in the county is growing rapidly. The great expansion of education in recent years has provided much of this growth. In 1960 there were 1095 professional people in the county. Seven hundred twenty-five of these were in education.

The fast growth of Jackson Township between 1950 and 1960 shows another important trend in Tioga County life. Our area is becoming a bedroom! Many people who live here do not work in the county. Many of these commuters work in the Corning and Elmira area.

The North Penn Gas Company and the Pennsylvania Electric Company are large employers. Natural gas storage near Sabinsville has created work. Lumbering and wood working employs around 100 men. Many local people work for the state and national government. Merchants, bankers, and small businessmen earn a good living. The Land of Tioga is doing well.

A man who was born before 1890 talked about Tioga County today. He said he was very proud of the county's many new schools. A hundred years from now people will look back on our schools and wonder how we ever used such wretched buildings. At this time, however, nothing says more for the people of Tioga County than the beautiful schools they have built.

More than the buildings have changed. Today's teachers have four years of college training. They no longer have to ride hand cars or stone boats to school like one early teacher did. Today teenagers are



Cowanesque High School

no longer needed to do chores at home so almost all students finish high school. It is not like 1914 when Mansfield High graduated three students!

The one-room schools are gone. Every district has a junior and senior high school. The county has been organized into three school districts. Some people fought against consolidated schools because they felt they could run their own schools. It would seem, however, the modern, consolidated school gives the student a better opportunity to learn than did the old, dingy local school.

Television overshadows all other entertainment today. In the 1940s people would wait in long lines to see a movie on Saturday night. Today television has forced many theaters to close. Children spend as much as two hours a day watching television. Cartoon shows and adventure programs are their favorites. The men and older boys spend a lot of time watching sports on the "tube." The Fugitive seems to be the most popular television show in Tioga County this year.

Sports, especially basketball, are very popular in the county. Hunting and fishing are favorites. As always, children enjoy sledding and swimming. These and many other sports are enjoyed across the county.

Little League baseball became popular after World War II. Most boys from nine to twelve years of age are anxious to join a team. Nearly every town in the county supports a program.



This action shot shows a little league game being played at Mansfield

Almost every child gets a bicycle as soon as he is big enough to ride one. It is used to get from place to place, however, and is seldom used as a toy. Battery operated toys and guns are popular with children. Hula hoops, Davy Crockett hats, and Batman have come and gone.

Young people today enjoy a loud music called rock and roll. Teenagers enjoy dancing to the beat of this music. Older people do not enjoy it very much. They are sure anyone who does enjoy it will never amount to much. Their parents, of course, said the same thing about their music.

One thing that upsets parents today is their son's haircut. After World War II the crew cut became very popular. Today it is fast disappearing. Boys' hair is getting longer and longer.

Another style which developed during the war was ladies' slacks. Skirts got very long in the fifties but now they are shorter than ever. The most dramatic change of style came when males began to wear Bermuda shorts. Not long ago a boy in shorts had to prove he was not a "sissy."



Wellsboro: A town midst the Hills

The Towns

Over one third of the people in Tioga County live in five boros. Even though this is still an agricultural area, the farm is no longer the heart of county life. The towns have become the center of attraction.

The county seat is the largest town in Tioga County. Industries such as Corning Glass, Bordens, and Linofilm help support a population of nearly 5,000. Taynton's Trucking firm and a metal working plant also provide jobs. Benjamin W. Morris would be proud of the high school that overlooks his village. The county offices busily conduct the affairs of the Land of Tioga. The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital, two banks, and dozens of stores make Wellsboro a business center for the area.

Because of the explosive growth of Mansfield State College, Mansfield has become the fastest growing town in Tioga County. The old Normal became Mansfield State Teachers College in 1926. The name was changed to Mansfield State College in 1958 and soon a liberal arts program and graduate school were added. By 1970, 3000 students will attend the school.

Mansfield has also grown because of its location at the intersection of Route 6 and Route 15. Motels, restaurants, gas stations, and tourists homes huddle near this important crossroad. The Armco Company and the brand new R. S. Electronics provide some industry.



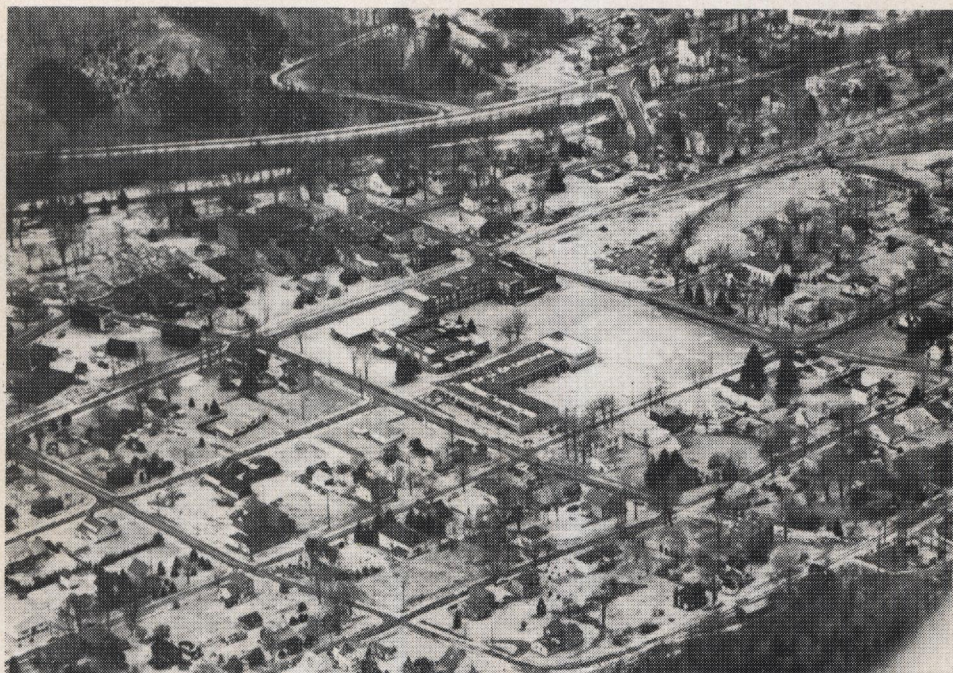
Mansfield near Mid-Century

Asa Mann's old town has become a cultural and athletic center for the northern tier. Concerts, plays, and lectures held at the college are available to the people of the county. The college basketball teams of the early 1960's were ranked with the best small college teams in the nation. The longlegged McMillen boys have helped make Mansfield High cage teams among the best in the state.

In the Cowanesque Valley, Elkland and Westfield have become the leading boros. Both have grown up around their tanneries. The Eberle Tannery in Westfield celebrated its 100th birthday in 1967. The Elkland plant is the largest sole leather tannery in the world! A dress making shop and data processing center were recently started in Elkland. An electric cord plant, a new golf course, and a beautiful new high school have been established at Westfield. Both communities are trading centers for the farmers of the valley.

Blossburg lies near the heart of the Tioga County coal fields. Nearby mining towns like Arnot, Fall Brook, Antrim, and Morris Run have become tiny villages. Yet "Bloss" is nearly as large today as it was at the peak of the coal boom. Straddling Route 15 and the railroad, the town is the headquarters for the coal trade.

Today foundries run by the Ward and Kuster families are the backbone of the economy. The Blossburg State Hospital serves as a



Blossburg from the Air

medical center for much of north central Pennsylvania. Lovely Island Park and some of Tioga County's most attractive homes grace the community. In 1967 an airliner crashed near Blossburg killing 34 passengers. The people of the town were complimented by the airline for the way they handled this emergency.

The People. When Tioga County was still a wilderness, a writer found the people a little cool towards strangers. "They were not impolite," he wrote, "just hard to get to know." People who come here today still find this true. Like their New England ancestors, Tiogans are a little slow to accept newcomers.

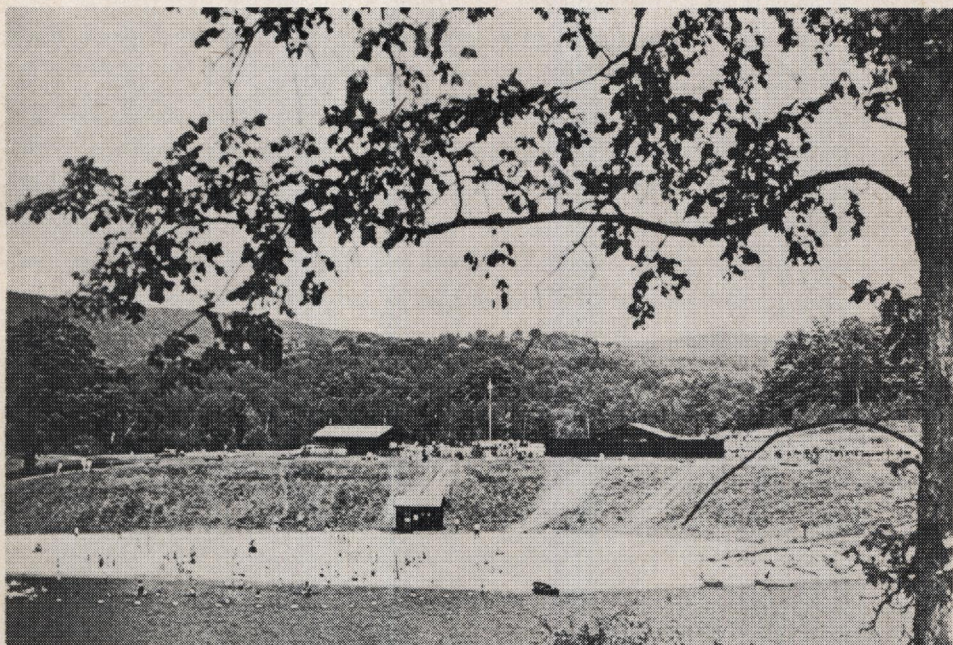
Much of New England is still in the people of Tioga County. They are Protestants and Republicans. They are hardworking, honest, and thrifty. They are also slow to accept change. Perhaps they are a little too sure their ideas are the best ideas.

Be it bad or good, change is on the move in Tioga County. The growing professional group has a louder voice in town councils. Consolidated schools have thrown young people closer together. Children are getting more and more education. As parts of the county become "bedroom communities," outsiders will settle here. These things will slowly change the nature of the people. A lot of water will pass down the Pine Creek Gorge, however, before the old habits and traditions fade away.



Beechwood Lake: A typical Tioga County recreation Area

The Future. In the last century a Tiogan wrote: "Why did Jefferson put the capital in Washington when there was a spot as beautiful as Wellsboro?" In this natural beauty lies hope for the future. Recreation will be an important industry in the years ahead. Tioga County is only a few hours from America's largest population centers. The forests provide excellent hiking, hunting, and camping. Beechwood and Hill's Creek Lakes are a lovely setting for all kinds of water sports. When it is built, the Tioga-Hammond Dam will give Tiogans a \$50,000,000 water playground. Golf clubs, community swimming pools, state parks, and comfortable motels welcome the visitor. The area is perfect for the development of a winter sports center.



Hills Creek Lake

Tiogans have become aware of the tourist's dollar. The State Lural Festival at Wellsboro has been bringing visitors to the northern tier for over twenty-five years. The Grand Canyon is known far and wide as one of the beauty spots of the Northeast. Even tiny Morris brings tourists. The annual rattlesnake hunt held in that village has attracted wide attention!

Today it can be said the Land of Tioga has its feet planted squarely on the ground. The dairy industry has a promising future. Tioga's factories produce much-needed products. Modern, consolidated schools are working hard to provide a good education. It now

appears that two super highways will serve the county before the century ends. The fields of transportation and education provide a growing number of jobs. A boom lies ahead for recreation. New ideas and old habits seem to be blending into a new culture. Like his ancestors before him, the modern Tiogan looks ahead with hope and confidence. The future of this old Seneca hunting ground seems to be bright indeed.

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<i>Mansfield Advertiser</i>	Mansfield, Pennsylvania	Available 1867-1910, 1930 to present
<i>Tioga County Agitator</i>	Wellsboro, Pennsylvania	Files nearly complete since 1850's
<i>Tioga Eagle</i>	Wellsboro, Pennsylvania	Consulted for 1840s and 1850s
<i>Wellsboro Agitator</i>	Wellsboro, Pennsylvania	Formerly <i>Tioga County Agitator</i>
<i>Wellsboro Gazette</i>	Wellsboro, Pennsylvania	Consulted for 1890s

Interviews

Mr. Edwin Coles—Former Editor—*Mansfield Advertiser*—Mansfield, Pennsylvania

Mr. Jay Foreman—History Professor, Mansfield State College—Mansfield, Pennsylvania

Mr. Edwin Glover—Attorney and Writer—Knoxville, Pennsylvania

Mr. Robert Grossenbacher—Editor, *Wellsboro Gazette*—Wellsboro, Pennsylvania

Mr. Adam Kaminski—Mine Operator—Blossburg, Pennsylvania

Mr. Warren Miller—Former School Official—Mansfield, Pennsylvania

Mrs. C. Morris Thompson—Wife of a Descendant of the Morris Family—Richmond Township

Hon. Charles G. Webb—President Judge Tioga County Court—Member, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission—Wellsboro, Pennsylvania

APPENDIX A
POPULATION OF TIOGA COUNTY

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>
1810	1,687
1820	4,021
1830	8,978
1840	15,498
1850	23,987
1860	31,044
1870	35,097
1880	45,814
1890	52,313
1900	49,086
1910	42,829
1920	37,118
1930	31,780
1940	35,004
1950	35,474
1960	36,614

APPENDIX B

POPULATION OF TIOGA COUNTY BOROS — 1860-1960

Boros	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960
Arnot	—	—	2783	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blossburg	—	—	2140	2568	2433	2303	2033	1696	—	1954	1956
Covington	—	315	343	496	450	340	373	—	—	—	—
Elkland	310	332	470	1006	1109	1175	1703	1978	2400	2326	2189
Fall Brook	—	1390	860	825	—	172	—	—	—	—	—
Knoxville	313	400	459	679	862	840	696	608	644	656	694
Lawrenceville	—	478	426	441	486	549	508	457	450	479	548
Liberty	—	—	—	—	263	253	194	221	280	271	269
Mainesburg	114	212	239	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mansfield	—	616	1611	1762	1847	1645	1609	1755	1880	2657	2678
Nelson	—	—	—	—	542	448	—	—	—	—	—
Osceola	—	—	790	838	693	591	—	—	—	—	—
Roseville	—	—	185	211	215	—	119	99	133	126	162
Tioga	—	440	520	557	524	533	368	431	460	544	597
Wellsboro	809	1465	2228	2961	2954	3183	3452	3643	3665	4214	4369
Westfield	—	370	579	1128	1180	1207	1303	1193	1386	1357	1333

APPENDIX C

POPULATION OF TIOGA COUNTY TOWNSHIPS: 1890 and 1960

In Order of Size of Population in 1960

<i>Townships</i>	<i>Population 1890</i>	<i>Population 1960</i>
Delmar	3081	2119
Charleston	1889	1893
Jackson	1704	1534
Richmond	1640	1351
Westfield	1261	1333
Tioga	1424	1023
Middlebury	1658	1011
Union	1876	948
Lawrence	1017	868
Sullivan	1211	786
Liberty	1775	780
Osceola	—	758
Morris	1849	703
Covington	1122	673
Deerfield	883	578
Clymer	1313	568
Putnam	—	546
Hamilton	2375	532
Chatham	1208	531
Rutland	860	530
Nelson	—	510
Brookfield	1021	478
Gaines	1187	462
Shippen	732	430
Farmington	907	414
Duncan	2449	317
Bloss	2550	301
Elk	693	50
Elkland	—	49
Ward	442	40

APPENDIX D

COAL MINING IN TIOGA COUNTY

<i>Year</i>	<i>Coal Produced</i>	<i>Number Employed</i>
1810	36,000 Bushels	104
1850	—	—
1860	—	75
1870	733,562 Tons	1,535
1880	988,517 Tons	2,295
1890	1,036,175 Tons	2,056
1900	1,149,849 Tons	1,668
1910	1,141,783 Tons	2,038
1920	742,055 Tons	1,177
1925	144,680 Tons	698
1930	190,114 Tons	519
1935	177,096 Tons	557
1940	190,597 Tons	365
1945	213,090 Tons	225
1950	149,224 Tons	156
1955	81,793 Tons	66
1960	242,375 Tons	106
1964	260,424 Tons	89

APPENDIX E

TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMS IN TIOGA COUNTY 1850-1960

1850	2183
1860	2798
1880	4469
1890	3910
1900	4829
1910	4436
1920	3702
1930	3168
1940	2783
1950	2350
1960	1577

Compiled from United States Census Figures

APPENDIX F

RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN TIOGA COUNTY 1852-1964

1852	Pierce	(D)	2614	Scott	(Whig)	1564	
1856	Freemont	(R)	4514	Buchanan	(D)	1386	
1860	Lincoln	(R)	4754	Douglas	(D)	1277	
1864	Lincoln	(R)	4105	McClellan	(D)	568	
1868	Grant	(R)	5549	Seymour	(D)	1951	
1872	Grant	(R)	5730	Greeley	(D)	1777	
1876	Hayes	(R)	5892	Tilden	(D)	2729	
1880	Garfield	(R)	6018	Hancock	(D)	2815	Weaver (Greenback)
							1151
1884	Blaine	(R)	6714	Cleveland	(D)	2681	
1888	Harrison	(R)	7808	Cleveland	(D)	2972	
1892	Harrison	(R)	6706	Cleveland	(D)	2921	
1896	McKinley	(R)	7892	Bryan	(D)	2111	
1900	McKinley	(R)	7458	Bryan	(D)	2638	
1904	T. Roosevelt	(R)	7410	Parker	(D)	1536	
1908	Taft	(R)	6947	Bryan	(D)	2321	
1912	T. Roosevelt (Bull Moose)		4314	Wilson	(D)	1901	Taft (R) 1895
1916	Hughes	(R)	5347	Wilson	(D)	2294	
1920	Harding	(R)	9718	Cox	(D)	1258	
1924	Coolidge	(R)	8452	Davis	(D)	1271	
1928	Hoover	(R)	11,774	Smith	(D)	1688	
1932	Hoover	(R)	9583	F. Roosevelt	(D)	3004	
1936	Landon	(R)	12,567	F. Roosevelt	(D)	5442	
1940	Wilkie	(R)	11,645	F. Roosevelt	(D)	4434	
1944	Dewey	(R)	10,381	F. Roosevelt	(D)	3248	
1948	Dewey	(R)	10,016	Truman	(D)	2986	
1952	Eisenhower	(R)	11,203	Stevenson	(D)	3006	
1956	Eisenhower	(R)	10,827	Stevenson	(D)	3280	
1960	Nixon	(R)	11,082	Kennedy	(D)	4076	
1964	Johnson	(D)	7,415	Goldwater	(R)	7064	

Compiled from *Whig Almanac*, *Tribune Almanac* and *Political Register* and *Smull's Legislative Handbook*, (Became *Pennsylvania Manual* after 1922).

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